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PANORAMIC TRAIN TRIP

A scenic ride in Kashmir Valley

40-seater coaches with glass roofs welcome tourists on the Srinagar-Banihal stretch

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What's in store for the Indian economy?

FAQ » PAGE 14

Spirited Australia pips gallant New Zealand

SPORT » PAGE 18

NEARBY

CM-Home Minister meeting creates a flutter

BENGALURU/MANGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his loyalist Ministers attending a dinner party at Home Minister G. Parameshwara's residence in Bengaluru on Friday has stirred a controversy with sources claiming that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar was "deliberately kept out". » Page 7

NRN's suggestion of 70-hour work week draws flak

BENGALURU
Infosys founder N.R. Narayana Murthy's suggestion that the youth of the country should volunteer to work 70 hours a week for India's development has drawn flak from across the board. » Page 3

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Centre defends UNGA abstention

Govt. says resolution that called for truce and ceasefire in Gaza did not include 'explicit condemnation' of the October 7 terror attacks in Israel

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Saturday defended its decision to abstain in a UN General Assembly vote on resolution that called for a humanitarian truce and ceasefire in Gaza, saying it did not include "explicit condemnation" of the October 7 terror attacks in Israel. A note circulated by government sources, responding to criticism from Opposition members about the vote, said that since India's concerns over omissions had not been covered by the final text of the resolution, it had decided to abstain.

"There can be no equivocation on terror," a source said, calling India's position "steadfast and consistent".

The resolution, titled the "Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations", proposed by Jordan on behalf of the Arab League and co-sponsored by nearly 40 countries, was passed in on Friday with 120 votes in favour, 14 including the U.S. and U.K. against, and 45 abstentions, including India.

In its explanation of vote (EoV), France also objected to the omission of references to the October 7 attacks as well as the hostages taken, but in a break from its western allies, voted for the resolution saying "nothing can justify the suffering of civilians. All victims deserve our compassion, all lives are equal and there is no hierarchy between them".

The UN General Assembly on Friday voted for an 'immediate humanitarian truce' in Gaza. AFP

The resolution adopted had condemned "all acts of violence aimed at Palestinian and Israeli civilians, including all acts of terrorism and indiscriminate attacks, as well as all acts of provocation, incitement and destruction".

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Israel expands ground war, hits Hamas's key tunnels

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Israel on Saturday expanded its ground operation in Gaza with infantry and armoured vehicles backed by massive strikes from the air and sea, including the bombing of Hamas tunnels – a key target in its campaign to crush the territory's ruling group after its bloody incursion in Israel three weeks ago.

The bombardment, described by Gaza residents as the most intense of the war, also knocked out most communications in Gaza. This largely cut off the besieged enclave's 2.3 million people from the world.

The military released images on Saturday showing tank columns moving in Gaza, many apparently near the border.

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NO SAFE PLACE IN GAZA: UN
» PAGE 12

'Release 12 fishermen detained in Maldives'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

M.K. Stalin

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday wrote to the Union Minister for External Affairs, S. Jaishankar, seeking his intervention in ensuring the release of 12 fishermen from Tamil Nadu who have been detained by the Coast Guard of the Maldives.

Mr. Stalin pointed out that the fishermen had ventured into the sea on October 1, 2023 from the Tharuvaikulam fish landing centre in Thoothukudi on a mechanised boat, bearing the registration number IND-TN-12-MM-6376. He said it was reported that the fishermen were apprehended by the Coast Guard on October 23 near Thinadhoo Island.

The Chief Minister requested the External Affairs Minister to take up the issue with the Maldivian authorities through appropriate diplomatic channels to secure the release of the fishermen and their boat at the earliest.

Pugazhmani, a fisherman, told *The Hindu* that the fishermen from Tharuvaikulam had been engaged in deep-sea fishing in a tuna liner. They had ventured into the sea on October 1 and from October 18, they started drifting due to circumstances beyond their control.

Father Churchill of the South Asian Fishermen Fraternity said the fishermen were not planning to fish near Maldives and were on their way to Diego Garcia Island, a British Indian Ocean Territory.

CONTINUED ON
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Rosy picture

A volunteer cleans the holy lake after a helicopter showered rose petals over the Golden Temple ahead of the birth anniversary of the fourth Sikh Guru Ramdas in Amritsar on Saturday. AFP

KEA approaches SC seeking permission for second round of stray seat counselling

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

This is to fill 133 vacant medical seats under the management quota

The Karnataka government has approached the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Union government to allow the State to hold a second round of stray seat counselling to fill 133 vacant medical seats.

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has filed a petition in the Supreme Court in this regard and the case is expected to come up for hearing on October 30.

However, the classes for first year undergraduate medical courses have already begun a month ago, leaving seat aspirants worried.

Management quota

This year, 11,020 medical seats were allotted to Karnataka. The KEA, which is the seat allotment agency of the State, has completed four rounds of NEET counselling, including mop-up round and stray vacancy round for the undergraduate medical seats and completed the admission process on September 30, 2023.

Earlier, the stray vacancy round was the final round for medical seat allotment and all pending seats were filled in this round. But this year, while all other quota seats were filled, 133 management quota seats have remained unfilled after the stray vacancy round as well.

Acting on demand by seat aspirants and private medical college managements, the KEA has now decided to conduct a second stray vacancy round for remaining seats and had written to the Union government seeking permission for the same. However, with appropriate response, KEA has now moved the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Union government to allow the State to do a second round of stray seat counselling to fill vacant medical seats.

Unfilled seats

"This year a high number of management quota medical seats have remained unfilled after the stray vacancy round. Due to the high cost of fees and various other issues, many students did not opt for management quota seats in the initial rounds of seat allotment. But now students are interested as these are the only seats available. So we have approached the Supreme Court seeking permission to conduct a second round of stray seat counselling," said S. Ramya, Executive Director, KEA.

Aspirants worried

According to the National Medical Commission (NMC) guidelines, the last date for the undergraduate medical course admission was September 30, 2023, and the classes started from October 1 in colleges across the State. Seat aspirants are now worried about the classes missed.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

Bleak rays: An installation consisting of 224 pillars of light erected by the Jerusalem municipality as a tribute to the hostages taken by Hamas militants during the October 7 attack. AFP

Consolation efforts: Palestinian children injured in Israeli air strikes taken for treatment at the al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City. AP

Uncertain childhood: An off-duty Israeli soldier in Tel Aviv walks by an installation of blindfolded giant teddy bears adorned with photos of Israeli children held captive by Hamas. AP

Children of the disputed land

Making up half the population of Gaza, children are the hardest hit category in the war between Israel and Hamas

In the latest war between Israel and Hamas, children were targets on both sides. Israel started its heavy bombardment of Gaza, a tiny Mediterranean land strip of 2.3 million people, on October 7 after Hamas, the Islamist militant group that runs the enclave, carried out an unprecedented cross-border raid, killing at least 1,400 Israelis.

Of the victims, 447 were children and 248 were women, according to Israeli authorities. In retaliation, Israel has cut off food, fuel and power supplies to Gaza, laid siege to the enclave and started bombing it disproportionately. Israel's President Isaac Herzog suggested there are no innocent civilians in Gaza. In the Israeli attacks, in 22 days, at least 7,700 people were killed, some 70% of them women and children.

According to Gaza's Health Ministry, the toll includes more than 3,500 minors. The Israeli attacks have also turned more than a million people refugees. Israel ordered one million people living in northern Gaza to move towards the south. Since children make up half of Gaza's population, they are the hardest hit age category by the displacement as well.

Now that Israel launched its ground invasion, many more Palestinians will be killed, wounded and displaced, which means many more children would be victimised.

(Text by Stanly Johny)

Fear-struck: Children sit in the back of an ambulance after hundreds were killed in a blast at the al-Ahli hospital. REUTERS

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	Rs. 2,600/-	2nd February 2024
"Concept-wise Tests" for JEE Main + JEE Advanced	Rs. 3,000/-	31st December 2023
	Rs. 3,100/-	2nd February 2024

Program		JEE 2024 Fee*#	Last Date to Enrol$^{\Omega}$
"Concept-wise Tests + Test Series" for JEE Main	M1	Rs. 5,000/-	31st December 2023
	M2	Rs. 4,500/-	31st January 2024
	M3	Rs. 3,500/-	29th February 2024
	M4	Rs. 2,500/-	31st March 2024
"Concept-wise Tests + Test Series" for JEE Advanced	A1	Rs. 5,500/-	31st December 2023
	A2	Rs. 5,000/-	29th February 2024

Program		JEE 2024 Fee*#	Last Date to Enrol$^{\Omega}$
"Concept-wise Tests + Test Series" for JEE Advanced	A3	Rs. 4,000/-	31st March 2024
	A4	Rs. 3,000/-	30th April 2024
"Concept-wise Tests + Test Series" for JEE Main + JEE Advanced	M1 + A1	Rs. 6,000/-	31st December 2023
	M2 + A2	Rs. 5,500/-	31st January 2024
	M3 + A3	Rs. 4,500/-	29th February 2024
	M4 + A4	Rs. 3,500/-	31st March 2024

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J BG-BGE

Common database of civic bodies to check property tax leakage

The database, which is being created, is also expected to provide automated facilities to citizens

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Many citizens in Bengaluru recently received messages from the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board to link their RR numbers and PID in one of its portals, leaving them confused. It has to be noted that the linking is a part of the creation of a new united database of property IDs (PIDs), and power and water connection IDs to address the leakage in property tax collection. After a recent High Court order, the E-governance Department along with the Urban Development Department is creating this common database.

The database, along with the regulation of property tax, is also expected to help automate many facilities for citizens. The Urban Development Department will engage with the agencies which will help municipalities implement this programme.

The E-governance Department and the Urban Development Department are involved in the project.

"It is a big task, and it will take some time. Many facilities provided to property owners can be automated with the same database," said Rakesh Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department.

He added, "In the urban administration, many things are missing from major radars, especially in Bengaluru. There are a large number of properties which have not been accounted for under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) or the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). Every property should have some identification number from the civic body it falls under as it will provide them a totality of how much tax should be paid."

Speaking about the integration of PID, and water and power connection IDs, Mr. Singh said that it would be difficult for people to escape from the radar of Escoms as it is not easy to forge electricity connections. "For proper identification of properties, we need common property IDs, which would also be essential to provide all services in a relatively seamless and uniform manner," he added.

The BBMP also has its own roadmap to tackle the challenges that come with property tax collection, Chief Civic Commissioner of Bengaluru Tushar Giri Nath said. "Sometimes at the time of collection, the PID will not match with the property as there will be more than one Bescom ID number. Due to this, our officers would have to do more groundwork," Mr. Giri Nath said. While taking measures for integration with other civic bodies, the BBMP is also referring to the Urban Property Ownership Records drone survey which was conducted by the Revenue Department to identify properties.

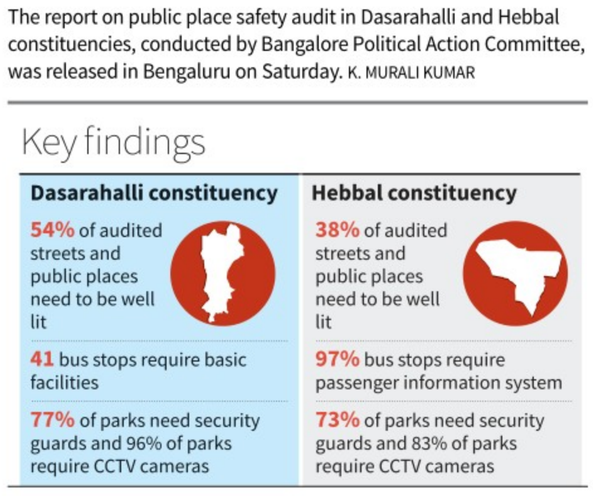
Public place safety audit report suggests improving street lights, anganwadis

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A recent public place safety audit conducted by the Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC) has shown that around 54% of street lights in Dasarahalli constituency and 38% of them in Hebbal constituency are in poor condition or unlit. The report stresses on the need to fix them as soon as possible.

The B.SAFE Constituency programme is an initiative of B.PAC which aims to provide empowered and safe constituencies for women through public safety audits, community awareness, action plans, and sustained advocacy. In one such audit, 20 ambassadors (12 from Dasarahalli and eight from Hebbal) used the B.SAFE Constituency mobile application developed by CGI, a corporate social responsibility partner for the audit, to undertake the public place safety audit. The audit analysis was conducted at 298 public places and 29 streets in 12 Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) wards in Dasarahalli and eight BBMP wards in Hebbal in June and July.

The report on public place safety audit in Dasarahalli and Hebbal constituencies, conducted by Bangalore Political Action Committee, was released in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR



Six types of public places that women access regularly – 76 anganwadi kendras, 92 bus stops, 54 parks, 10 PHCs, seven police stations, and 35 public toilets – were considered for the audit apart from streets.

Making bus stops more accessible with seating areas and route maps, equipping parks with security guards and CCTV cameras to enhance safety, and keeping public toilets open throughout the day while also providing basic facilities such as sanitary pads were listed out as priorities by the audit in both constituencies.

Interestingly, in Dasarahalli constituency, the report has identified that 58% anganwadi kendras can potentially expand as full-day care centres as more than 46% of these kendras have more than 20 working mothers. In Hebbal, the report has suggested that improvements in anganwadi kendras are required. "These changes will help Dasarahalli and Hebbal emerge as a model constituency on safety and empowerment of women," the report said.

Listing the positives in both constituencies, the report said, "All the audited seven police stations covering the two Assembly constituencies have dedicated women's desks, separate waiting areas for women, and CCTV cameras are installed and are in working condition."

Jija Madhavan Harisingh, retired IPS officer and former DGP who was present during the release of the report on Saturday, said, "During my days in service, Bengaluru was going through a phase of attacks on women and I wish we had such an initiative like B.SAFE Constituency then as it would have helped even the police to curb such attacks but I am glad it is happening now."

Celebrating orchids

A range of indigenous, exotic, and hybrid orchids are on display at the two-day show organised by the Orchid Society of Karnataka on St. Joseph's University campus in Bengaluru from Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

56-year-old biker knocked down by car

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 56-year-old motorcycle rider was killed when a car knocked him down on Gottigere main road in K.S. Layout police station limits on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Rajendra, a fabricator by profession and a resident of Chikkalasandra. The accused was heading towards Jambusavari Dinne, but lost control due to rash and negligent driving and knocked down Rajendra before crashing into the roadside electricity pole, the police said. The accused fled from the spot, leaving the damaged car.

Case booked

A profusely bleeding Rajendra was rushed to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The police have seized the car and booked a case against the driver for hit and run. Efforts are on to track him down and arrest him.

'Delay by banks to unfreeze cybercrime victim's accounts a serious concern'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 30-year-old private firm employee who was a victim of a cybercrime – a fraudulent transaction in her account – has been running from pillar to post to unfreeze her bank account for the last three months. The victim has suffered several financial difficulties due to the delay by the private bank.

She was among the many who participated and shared the tale of woes at the Cybercrime Victims' Day organised by the Southeast Division police at HSR Layout on Saturday. This was an initiative to provide support for cybercrime victims, redress their issues and provide updates about their cases. The event also served as a platform to educate them, counsel them, and discuss preventive measures with support and solace, said C.K. Baba, DCP, Southeast Division. Around 300 people, a majority of them women, attended the meeting on Saturday.

One of the common complaints at Cybercrime Victims' Day was that despite court order, victims' accounts were not unfrozen by banks

One of the common complaints that emerged was that despite court orders their accounts, which were targeted by cybercriminals, were not unfrozen by private banks for many months. This has burdened them further, as they have already lost money to cybercrimes. Banks refuse to unfreeze the accounts despite court orders, citing a lack of clear guidelines from their respective headquarters, a senior police officer said.

Another officer, with considerable experience in handling cybercrime cases, said that non-cooperation of private banks was one of the major hurdles facing cybercrime probes in the State. It may be recalled that city Police Commissioner B. Dayananda held a meeting with bank representatives and nodal officers to raise these issues on October 11. As per rules, banks, as soon as a cybercrime is reported, freeze all related accounts, including primary, secondary and tertiary. This will initially help the victim recover the amount transferred online, but unfreezing the accounts later remains a problem.

ASI booked for assaulting two men with machete

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vijayanagar police on Friday registered a case of assault against an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) for attacking two men with a machete over a trivial row over a drunken brawl on Wednesday night.

Based on a complaint by one of the victims, identified as L. Dayananda, the police booked Srinivasa, ASI attached to the Magadi Road police station, and his relative Ananda charging them under section 324 (Voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means).

Dayananda, a private firm employee and resident of Bapujinagar, along with his friend Shashidhar went to a bar on Wednesday night. A man, later identified as Anand, started shouting at them and hurled abuses at them without any provocation, he alleged. Heated argument ensued when they objected to his behavior, for which Anand challenged them to come to his area.

The duo agreed and boarded his autorickshaw. As soon as the autorickshaw reached 6th Main, Hampinagar, Anand started shouting for help, accusing the duo of being thieves. Srinivasa walked out of a house armed with a machete and a lathi and attacked the duo. Neighbours, hearing the commotion, alerted the control room and Hoysala patrol team, which reached the spot and rushed the injured victims to a hospital. The entire incident of was recorded on a CCTV camera and residents blamed Srinivasa and his family for being unruly.

BIG HEALTH AWARDS

Recognizing healthcare as the nation life force, BIG FM, one of the leading radio networks in the country, recently held the first ever - BIG Health Awards in Bengaluru. The awards brought together the complete healthcare ecosystem and its stakeholders to envisage the road ahead for our country.

In an extraordinary display of commitment to health and well-being, Sri Dinesh Gundu Rao, the Health Minister of Karnataka, unveiled the groundbreaking initiative 'Prescription for Change' during the BIG Health Awards. He endorsed the cause and urged individuals, communities and organizations to participate in this critical endeavour. The Prescription for Change program, supported by Meyer Organics, addresses a pressing but often overlooked issue – the improper disposal of expired medicines. The event was supported by Karnataka Drug & Pharmaceuticals Manufacturers association and Ayush TV, a leading health, wellness and lifestyle TV Channel.

The event underscored the significance of recognizing exceptional accomplishments in the health sector while encouraging innovative solutions to address the pressing health challenges of our times. The summit brought together healthcare leaders, pharmaceutical giants, medical entrepreneurs, esteemed doctors and renowned medical experts, along with various stakeholders in the health ecosystem from across the country. The Health Minister of Karnataka, **Dinesh Gundurao** and the Minister of Agriculture of Karnataka, **N Chaluvaraya Swamy** graced the event with their presence. Also present were prominent Kannada actresses **Ruhani Shetty, Manvitha Harish, Brinda Acharya** and leading music director in Kannada industry **Guru Kiran.**

Sharing his thoughts, **Sunil Kumaran, Chief Operating Officer, BIG FM** said, *"Prescription for Change is a shining example of how a community-focused approach can lead to a profound and positive change. It emphasizes the power of collective action and highlights the essential role that every individual plays in shaping the future of our nation's healthcare landscape. By addressing overlooked issues such as that of expired medicines, we are taking a significant step towards a safer and responsible tomorrow. Together, we can drive change and lead our society towards a path of well-being."*

Several healthcare brands received awards for their outstanding contributions to the healthcare sector. The CEO of *Alcon expressed gratitude on receiving the award, "Alcon being the global leader in eye care for over 76 years, is truly humbled by this award and expresses heart filled gratitude on receiving the same. We value the Prescription for change initiative by BIG FM, as correctly disposing of bio-waste is an area that definitely needs attention and awareness and glad to see this initiative take off at this forum...Good luck!"*

The Health Minister's introduction of the 'Prescription for Change' initiative during the BIG Health Awards represents a monumental stride toward a healthier, safer and more responsible society. This program serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us that even the smallest actions can have a substantial impact on our collective well-being. It is a prescription for a brighter, healthier and more sustainable future.

Actor Sudeep fans' FB page hacked, objectionable pictures uploaded

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The South division cybercrime police on Friday registered a case against unknown people for hacking Kannada film actor Sudeep fans' Facebook page and uploading objectionable pictures. Based on a complaint filed by Vishwanath K.C., the police charged the accused under various sections of the IT Act, 2000, cheating and impersonation under the IPC further investigations.

Vishwanath, who is one of the four administrators for the 'Karnataka Kicchaa Sudeep Fans Association Facebook page, was operating the page since July 2011. Recently, he received a message in his inbox saying 'Page appeal violation'. Thinking that the message alert was from Facebook, Vishwanath clicked the link and followed the steps only to realise that the page had been hacked and indecent photos were uploaded. The police are trying to track down the accused to ascertain the reason behind the hacking and uploading the photographs.

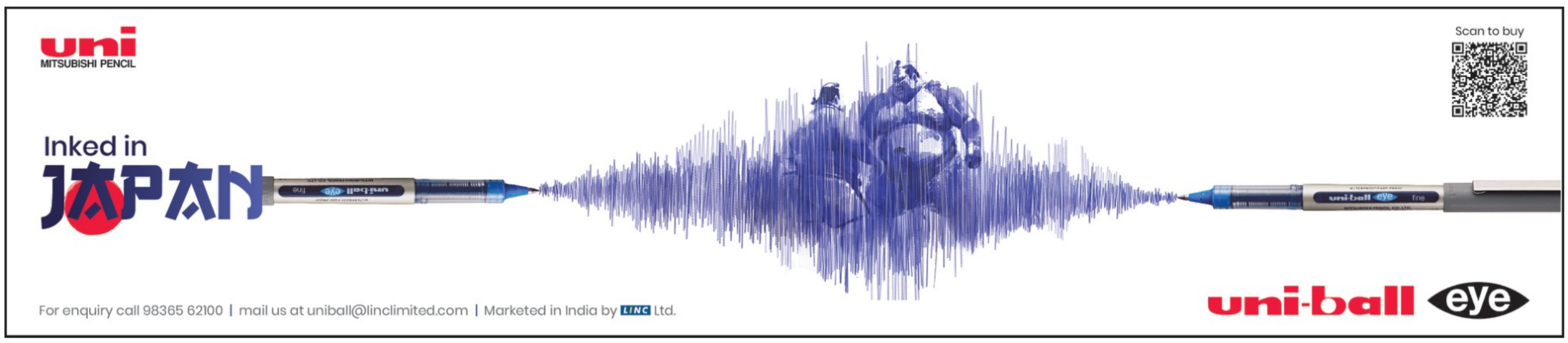
Staggering on: A Palestinian child carries bread amid the rubble of buildings. AFP

Scarred for life: Children injured in an Israeli air strike receive treatment. AFP

Wounded innocence: Palestinians evacuate two wounded boys from rubble following Israeli airstrikes on Gaza City. AP

Holding on: Palestinians children injured in Israeli air raids at Nasser Medical Hospital in Khan Yunis. GETTY IMAGES

All hope lost: A Palestinian boy mourns the death of his relatives. AP



NRN's suggestion of 70-hour work week draws flak

Software engineers, human resource professionals in the IT industry and trade unions criticise it; some say if such a move is implemented, it could prove counterproductive

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Infosys founder N.R. Narayana Murthy's suggestion that the youth of the country should volunteer to work 70 hours a week for India's development has drawn flak from across the board – from software engineers and human resource professionals in the information technology (IT) industry to trade unions.

"It is only a thinly veiled endorsement of more inhuman exploitation of the Indian working class. Forcing employees to work longer hours would not only lead to physical and mental exhaustion but also infringe upon their fundamental rights," said Sooraj Nidiyanga, general secretary, Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union.

HR professionals think that such a move could, in fact, prove counterproductive. B.S. Murthy, CEO of HumanCapital and an HR analyst, said it was disheartening to know the Indian workforce efforts were still measured in hours and not in terms of smart work done.

N. R. Narayana Murthy

Changing world

"In the era of ChatGPT, where a host of tools are available to enhance your personal and work productivity, what Mr. Narayana Murthy has said is interpreted as slavery in today's career context," Mr. B.S. Murthy said.

"If 70 hours working was that beneficial, I wonder why Infosys didn't introduce it during Mr. Narayana Murthy's time. If the 70-hour regime is introduced, there will be a mass exodus of people and attrition will hit the roof," argued Satish Sadasivan, a senior project manager with an MNC in Bengaluru.

"To clock 70 hours of working every week, one has to put in 11.66 hours a day for six days in a week or 10 hours every day. Such a crazy work schedule leaves no room for personal life or family well-being. It is easy for retired people who sit on tonnes of money to make such unviable suggestions," said Aruna Lal, a city-based software engineer.

However, 70-hour work weeks are not entirely uncommon in certain sectors. Kamal Karanth, co-founder, Xpheno, a specialist staffing company, and an HR analyst, said that irrespective of industries, the viability of 70 work-hour weeks depends on the stretch hours being paid or unpaid for. "We know in India we don't pay for stretch hours amongst the knowledge workers. Unpaid stretch hours are only possible as a personal choice of a few outlier units among large organisations," he said.

"However, stretch hours are not so much of a norm in the IT industry, whereas, in specific roles such as sales within banking, financial services and insurance, fast-moving consumer goods, and pharma sectors these stretch hours are seen more like a norm. However, all these roles with consistent stretch hours have very high attrition rates too," he observed.

> It is only a thinly veiled endorsement of more inhuman exploitation of the Indian working class.
>
> **SOORAJ NIDIYANGA,**
> General secretary, Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union

Illegal too

Labour laws applicable to factory floors in Karnataka were recently amended to allow work hours up to 12 hours per day, but it is restricted to 48 hours a week, beyond which companies need to pay overtime pay. This amendment, not applicable to IT firms, has itself come under severe criticism. A 70-hour work week is not only exploitation but also illegal, say trade union leaders.

"An eight-hour workday is sacrosanct and has been hard-earned globally. Now the trend across the world is towards shorter workdays, not longer. In the State, the erstwhile BJP government brought in the amendment stretching work hours on factory floors to 12 hours and the Congress promised to revert it to eight hours in its manifesto but hasn't done so yet after coming to power," rued Satyanand Mukund, general secretary, All-India Trade Union Congress. However, he added that barring a handful of factories, most had not opted for a 12-hour workday.

Gig workers routinely put in over 12 hours a day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Gig workers, who are not even considered "employees" by the platform companies they work for, do not even have defined "work-hour" rules. As commissions on deliveries and cab and autorickshaw rides drop, most gig workers are hard-pressed to make ends meet, forcing them to routinely work over 12 hours a day.

Tanveer Pasha, president, Ola and Uber Drivers and Owners' Association, said on average most cab drivers work over 14 hours every day. "Many work even over 18 to 20 hours. Hundreds of cab drivers sleep in cabs for a few hours and resume working again. We are considered self-employed as we do have the freedom to turn down a ride or a delivery. But that freedom is very notional, as we are forced to take up assignments beyond 12 hours a day in our struggle to make ends meet," he said.

Dept. warns against using single-use water bottles in govt. meetings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With single-use plastic water bottles still being used even in government functions, despite the ban, the Commissionerate of Health and Family Welfare has issued an order asking that they be strictly avoided in all functions and meetings across the State. The authorities have been instructed to instead arrange for common drinking water dispensing system.

The order applies to not only all government functions and official meetings but also to those held by boards and corporations, universities, and government-aided institutions.

In its circular, the Commissionerate said, "The State government has banned the use of single-use plastic packaged water bottles at all official meetings and events across the State, based on the recommendation by the Central Pollution Control Board. But, the order is not being followed by departments strictly." It has warned against flouting the order.

India has banned the manufacture, distribution, stocking, sale, and use of several single-use plastic items. Some such items like carry bags and banners are regulated based on their thickness.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, OCT. 29		
RISE	06:12	SET 17:54
RISE	18:20	SET 06:25
MONDAY, OCT. 30		
RISE	06:12	SET 17:54
RISE	19:09	SET 07:24
TUESDAY, OCT. 31		
RISE	06:13	SET 17:54
RISE	20:00	SET 08:23

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	23
Mysuru	32	21
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C Morning will be pleasant. Weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49960 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

From Page One

KEA seeks permission for second round of stray seat counselling

"At the initial rounds of NEET counselling I was waiting for a government quota seat and in the stray vacancy round I expected a private quota seat, but to no avail. Now the only option is to opt for a management quota seat. Now, the KEA has approached the Supreme Court and any further delay in seat allotment will lead to loss of classes, as classes have already begun a month ago," said Nisha, one of the seat aspirants from Bengaluru.

Exam malpractice: Five cases registered, nine taken into custody

The Hindu Bureau
YADGIR

The police have taken nine persons into custody and registered five cases in connection with malpractices committed in the the examination conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) to fill vacancies in boards and corporations, which began on Saturday.

Bluetooth use

The candidates were writing the examination using Bluetooth, Superintendent of Police G. Sangeetha said in a release.

She said cases were registered cases based on complaints lodged by the deputy chiefs of the examination centres of New Kannada PU College; Saba PU College; Government Girls PU College; LKET Girls PU College, and Mahatma Gandhi PU College in Yadgir.

A team of police officers, led by Deputy Superintendent of Police, Surpur sub-division, Javed Inamdar, took the persons from Kalaburagi and Vijayapura districts into custody, Ms. Sangeetha said.

Pedal Shaale initiative expanded across city

Residents in 21 locations are honing their skills through the programme

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Free bicycle training sessions are provided to people of all ages and genders under the Pedal Shaale initiative. FILE PHOTO

The Pedal Shaale initiative, introduced this year in Bengaluru to empower cycling enthusiasts, has expanded to 21 locations across the city. Residents in these areas are enthusiastically honing their cycling skills through the programme.

In March, the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) and the Karnataka Bicycle Dealers' Association (KBDA), collaborated to introduce free bicycle training sessions at Cubbon Park. This initiative was undertaken in partnership with the Bangalore Bicycle School (BBS) and Citizens for Sustainability (CIFoS). "The Pedal Shaale initiative is progressing well. Its goal is to offer people of all ages and genders the chance to learn cycling on the city's roads," a DULT official said.

As part of the initiative, DULT and various organisations are providing training to cyclists in locations such as HSR Layout, Peenya, Sahakarnagar, Whitefield, HAL, Rajarajeshwarinagar, and Jayanagar. "We have created specific designs and shared them with the BBMP and Bengaluru Smart City Ltd. Although some suggestions have been adopted, a comprehensive cycle path network is still lacking. Our aim is to establish a unified and seamless design. We are in the process of formulating a cycling network plan to submit to the BBMP," an official explained.

Recently, to improve the Public Bicycle Sharing system in Bengaluru, the DULT started setting up a pedal-assisted bicycles (e-bicycles) system in Malleswaram. For this, the DULT is collaborating with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the German development agency, and Bosch Ltd. under the aegis of Green Urban Mobility Innovation-Living Lab (GUMI-LL) to develop sustainable, inclusive and smart mobility solutions through a multi-stakeholder platform.

A recent Personal2Publicsurvey report by NGOs, including the Bangalore Political Action Committee and WRI India, shows that only 1.42% of the people prefer bicycles as the main mode of transport in the city. The report states that the average trip length of cycle users is 6.36 km and the time spent to cover this distance is 30 to 45 minutes. Around 0.78% of existing public transport users prefer to cycle to reach the nearest metro station or bus stop.

Another case against Puneeth Kerehalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Puneeth Kerehalli

The Hebbur police in Tumakuru district have registered an FIR against cow vigilante Puneeth Kerehalli for allegedly abusing a Congress spokesperson on his Facebook page.

Based on a complaint by Thejas Gowda L.H., the police charged Puneeth under section 504 (intentional insult with an ulterior motive to provoke and disrupt public peace) on Wednesday.

Mr. Gowda in his complaint said Puneeth had used abusive language against Surya Mukundraj and depicted him in a bad light, which had been shared by his followers.

Mr. Gowda approached the judicial magistrate court which directed the police to register an FIR and investigate.

There are over a dozen cases filed against Puneeth in various police stations in different parts of the State.

BMTC to run metro feeder buses from BTM Layout to Banashankari

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To enhance last-mile connectivity, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has introduced a new metro feeder service (route no. MF-21) between BTM Layout and Banashankari.

The first MF-21 bus will depart from Banashankari to BTM Layout at 6.40 a.m. and the last bus at 8.25 p.m., the BMTC said in a press release. The service (two routes) will have 44 trips in a day via Mahadeshwara Nagar, Madiwala lake, J.P. Nagar 3rd Stage, Delmia Circle, and J.P. Nagar 6th Stage.

This is an addition to the existing 121 schedules operating 1,874 metro feeder trips on 30 routes that the BMTC is currently operating from different metro stations. Along with the existing 121 schedules, the BMTC plans to add 179 more schedules by the end of April 2024, taking the total number of metro feeder schedules to 300 across the city.

"In the upcoming days, the BMTC plans to expand metro feeder services to increase the scope of its operations on metro feeder routes in order to efficiently offer last-mile connectivity to metro rail passengers," said a senior public relations official of the BMTC. The official added that BMTC also intends to brand the nine-metre midi metro feeder buses in a unique way. As part of the National Clean Air initiative, the BMTC is providing 120 of these nine-metre non-AC electric buses for use on feeder lines.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Zonal Office Mumbai
W: www.jkbank.com

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Extension w.r.t invitation of bids for Hiring of Car for J&K Bank Ltd. Cluster Office Bangalore.

With reference to the Tender Notice dated 27/09/2023, issued by this Office regarding the invitation of bids for hiring of Car for J&K Bank Ltd Cluster Office Bangalore, the last date for receipt of proposals complete in all respect as specified in tender document in the format prescribed by Bank is extended up to **5th of November 2023 (05:00 PM IST).**

The relevant documents and the terms and conditions relating to same can be downloaded from Bank's website **www.jkbank.com**

The Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

Dated: 21/10/2023 **Zonal Head Mumbai**

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CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048 ; **T :** +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; **F :** +91 (0)194 248 1928; **E :** info@jkbmail.com ; **W :** www.jkbank.com

Classifieds

LIFE MADE SIMPLE — THE HINDU

SITUATIONS VACANT

INDEX OF SITUATIONS VACANT

ACCOUNTS & FINANCE
BPO
COURIER
COMPUTER/ INFO. TECH.
DETECTIVE/ SECURITY SERVICES
ENGG./PRODN./ TECHNICAL
GARMENTS

GENERAL

Full time/ Part time- Civil/ MEP/ Architectural CAD/ REVIT Drafting jobs. Wonderful opportunity to learn & work from home. Make plenty of money in your free time. Paid per job basis. Free limited training provided. An experienced, Self-learner with highly motivated candidates only Send your resume to hr@royalgroupny.com/Ct:9150051563

OVERSEAS

SEEKING VISA/GREEN card holder English/Hindi speaking lady for vegetarian cooking and housework for small Indian family in Milwaukee, USA. Contact+919892717854.

TECHNICAL

WANTED B.E(EEE) Fresher/Exp For T& C Field, CTC range from :20K+ to 50K+/M, Accom, Travel & Training Provided, cv@sunjay.in /+91 93814 08962

GENERAL

A 60 Years old GESCO Medical Device Co., requires the following personnel in sales & Marketing for spine and Ortho Division. Location: Bangalore RSM– 5+Years exp., ASM–2+ years exp., Marketing Executive – Fresher, Scrub– exp. in OT Tech, Delivery Executive –1+year exp. with two wheeler and valid driving license. Location – Bangalore. For appointments Contact +91 8754574607 / 9677447607 / 9940658607. CV to email:info.gesco2022@gmail.com

TECHNICAL

WANTED ELECTRICIAN

Qualification: **ITI + Diploma in electrical/equivalent**
Experience: **Minimum 5-10 years in aluminum extrusion industry or any manufacturing industry**
Additional requirement: **Experience in working with PLC related control systems (Siemens, Allen Bradley, Mitsubishi), burners and HT and LT, VFDS panel. Basic computer knowledge.**

Duties and responsibilities:

- Fixing all Electrical faults in a quick and effective way.
- Perform the preventive Maintenance for all machines.
- Troubleshooting effectively
- Reporting to the Higher authority about any technical problem or any modification required to prevent major breakdowns.
- Involving Installation / modification of any New or old equipment.
- Ensure the availability of the critical spare parts.
- Update logbook at the end of each shift.
- Instruct/train the operator how to operate the electrical equipment.
- Inspect all the electrical equipment and control panels.

-DNB-

Elex aluminum products Ltd
Coimbatore -641035
Mail: **elexplanning@gmail.com**
Phone: **0091 9790023706**

BUSINESS OFFERS

FINANCE

PERSONAL, BUSINESS, Property, 3rd Party Collateral, Low Int. 7305912765

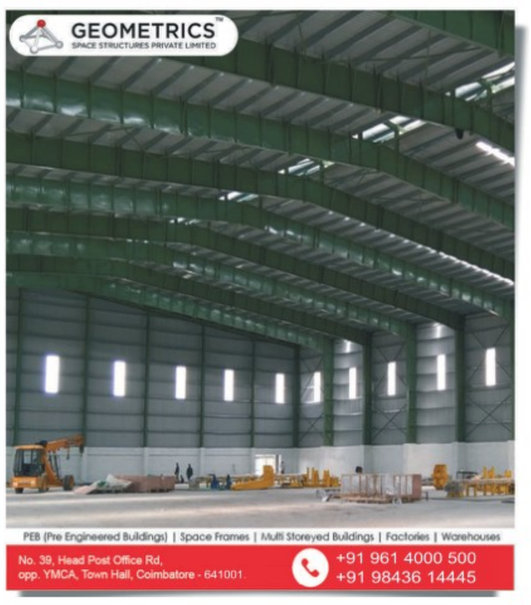
SHARES / INVESTMENTS

INVESTORS REQUIRED

India's premier fintech application for mobile recharge, bill payments, money transfer, and microATM (www.payrup.com) is searching for equity/debt investment. Private investors, venture capitalists, and angel investors are all welcome.

Send an email to
business@payrup.com
Ph. : 9656767994

INDUSTRIAL NEEDS



PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **Mrs.J.R.ASHWINI,** Aged about 39 Years, W/o.Mr. Raghavendra, Residing at: No.13-1-52, Old Check post, Hindupur, Ananthapur District, has enter in to a sale agreement with **Mrs. N.S.KUNJAMMA,** Aged About 76 Years, W/o. Late. C.M.Subbaiah, Residing at: No.23, 9th Main Road, Opp alankar Star Furniture shop 1st phase, Ideal homes township, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore - 560 098 in respect of the schedule property which is more fully described in the schedule given below. If any persons claiming or objections with regard to the Schedule Property they are required to send the same with documentary evidence **within Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this Public Notice hereof my clients shall be at liberty to proceed with the sale deed if there is no any claims or objection in the regard to the Schedule Property within the stipulated time.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site No.13, Khatha No.140/2/117/1, Property No.117/1, Situated at **Kowdenahalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District** Now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore MahanagaraPalike, Ward No.26, Measuring East to West 30 and North to South 40 feet in total Measuring **1200 Square feet,** together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded by:-

East by : Site No.12,
West by : Site No.14,
North by : Road,
South by : Remaining Portion of Property No.117/1.

T.RAMESH KUMAR & MANJULA RAMESH Advocates
No.1, Alisa Arcade, Near Vijaya Bank, Old Madras Road, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560036. Ph.No.9845601026
Bengaluru Date : 29-10-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our client intends to purchase **ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF** the Residential vacant Property No 290/3, having old Gramathana V.P. katha Number 290/3 presently having V.P Katha number 1505/1/290/3, (Adjacent to Hesaraghatta Main Road), Hesaraghatta Village, Hesaraghatta Grama Panchayathi, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Hobli, earlier Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, Measuring East to West – 33 Feet and North to South 86 Feet in total 2838 Sq Feet, from **Mr. H. S Shashidar** son of Late Shanabhoga H S Nanjundaiah present owner who has acquired via sale Deed dated 26.10.2012, registered as document No. HSR-1-06133/2012-13 of Book 1, CD No.HSRD128, registered before the office of the Sub Registrar, Hesaraghatta, Bangalore.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF the Residential vacant Property **No 290/3,** having old Gramathana V.P. katha Number 290/3 presently having V.P Katha number 1505/1/290/3, **(Adjacent to Hesaraghatta Main Road), Hesaraghatta Village, Hesaraghatta Grama Panchayathi, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Hobli,** earlier Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, Measuring **East to West – 33 Feet and North to South 86 Feet in total 2838 Sq Feet** and bounded by:

East : Guruvariappas vacant land;
West : Private Property;
North : Hesaraghatta Main Road;
South : Kurudu Muniyappa Property

Any person's having objection/s to the above mentioned transaction or any person's claiming to have any manner of right title, interest, claim or demand in relation to the Owner and/or the Schedule Property or any part thereof, may lodge his/ her/their statement's, objections and/or claim's in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned within **7 (Seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the absence of any genuine and/or rightful objections and/or claim, our client will proceed to finalize and conclude the proposed transaction of purchase of the Schedule Property by way of an outright sale from the Owner, as if no claim's or objection's exist and that they have been consciously waived and abandoned by such person's forever.

B. Vivek Anand Sagar
Ashvik Law Associates,
Advocates and Solicitors,
Office at No 24, Sri Rama Mandir Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560004
Mob: 9916590318

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2

E- Tender Notice No. 33/2023
Dated: 25-10-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tender for the following work:

Description in Brief:- X-Ray Baggage Scanner as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO/SPN/TC-94/2010 Rev.1.0 or latest **(Qty. 02 Nos.) Tender No. L8236320A**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 14-11-2023**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Materials Manager
PUB/470/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Bengaluru**

South Western Railway - SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2023-24/36
Dated: 25-10-2023.

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Provision of Lift with power supply arrangements at TPC building and Provision of VRF type ductable AC units.	Rs. 60,79,117.64

Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 16-11-2023**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
PUB/471/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Mysuru**

South Western Railway - SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Public in general that my clients **Sri.VILVANATHAN**, S/o. Mr. Shanmugam, No. 77, 10th Main, Near Abdul Kalam Park, Bikasipura, BSK 5th Stage, Konanakunte, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560062, & Sri. **S. BHASKAR,** S/o.Late V. Selvaraj, Residing at No.4, 7th Cross, Near Shivashakti Temple, Om Shiva Shakthinagar, Konankunte Post, Bangalore-560062 are going to purchase the Property from Mr. **G.C.GURULINGAPPA**, S/o. Mr. G. Channappa, Residing at No. 15, (old 88), 10th Cross, Javaregowda Road, Gavipuram, Gavipuram Extension, Bangalore South, Bangalore- 560019, with respect to the Property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder, any individual/s, person/ persons, financial institutions, Bank/s, third parties, General Public or body corporate whoso ever having any right, title or interest or objections of whatsoever nature in the said property shall file their objections or claims along with relevant documents within 15 days from this notice with the undersigned, if no claim is lodged within the specific period, which my clients shall treat the same as No Objection and my clients Sri, **VILVANATHAN & SRI. S. BHASKAR,** will proceed to conclude the Sale Transaction.

::SCHEDULE PROPERTY::

All that piece and parcel of immovable Residential Property bearing Nos 146 and 146/A, Old V.P. Katha No.209, later Khata Nos 542 & 541, House list Nos.146/438 & 146/A/437 formed in converted Survey No.89 (duly converted the agricultural to non-agricultural purpose vide Order No. B.DIS/ALN/SR(S)204/1991-92, Dt. 28-11-1991, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore), within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Ward No.197- Vasanthapura, Present BBMP SL.No. 1309, Present Property No. 542/146/2/38, situated at Doddakallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, Measuring East to West: 50-0 Feet, North to South: 50-0 Feet, Totally measuring 2750.20 Square Feet or 255.4812 Square Meters, along with Floor mill and residential house constructed thereon with all civil amenities provided and bounded on the:

EAST BY : Property No.144,
WEST BY: Private Property,
NORTH BY: Road, SOUTH BY: Property No.15-B and 15-C.

SHIVA SHANKAR.S. Advocate
Enrolment No KAR-1723/17
No. C-1, Nrusimha Towers, New Bank Colony, Konanakunte, Amruth Nagar Main Road, Bangalore-560062, Mob- 8951510627
e-mail: subramanya.shivashankar@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner: **FIVE STARS SHIPPING COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED,** having its office at: BRADY GLADYS PLAZA, Unit No.3, 1/447, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013, **represented by its Managing Director: Mr.KHUSHROO N. DHUNJIBHOY.**

Apart from the said Owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Site No.VP-54, V.P.Khata No.169/196/54, Property No.150200202000300510, measuring East to West 265 ft and North to South 164.37 ft, forming part of converted land bearing Sy.No.110 of Avalahalli, together with a house thereon, situated at Avalahalli, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on:

East by : Road and Site No.1
West by : Survey No.109
North by : Road
South by : Sy.No.70

Sd/- S.F. Goutam Chand
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2

OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO 14/SBC/23 of 18-10-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Senior Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru Section:** Provision of standard height gauges for 7 RUBs No. 7, 14, 31, 38, 40, 43 and 62 in Assistant Divisional Engineer/KUNNIGAL (KIGL) Sub-Division. Maintenance period is 12months.	Rs. 87,13,829/-
2	**Sub Work - I** :- Chikka Banavara - Hassan Section: TFR without ERC for a length of 12.8km from km 1/200-14/000 between Chikka Banavara - Nelamangala Stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Kunnigal Section. **Sub Work - II** : Chikka Banavara - Hassan Section: Through turnout renewal of existing 52kg curved switch & CMS xing 1in8.5 -12 Nos with 52kg curved switch & CMS xing in Senior Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru Section. **Sub Work - III**: Bangalore - Salem Section: Increasing sleeper density of existing 52kg PSC sleepers of 1310/km to 1540/km for a length of 9.565km in loop lines in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Dharmapuri Section. **Sub Work - IV**: Chikkabanavara-Hassan Section: Through Ballast Recoupment of Points & Crossings at Nelamangala yard- 08 Nos.	Rs. 1,36,67,763/-
3	Bengaluru - Dharmavaram Section: RUB in lieu of LC No. 54 at Km. 92/700-800 between Devarapalle (DPE) - Hindupur (HUP) stations. Maintenance period is 6months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 6,20,89,114/-
4	**Sub Work - I**: Bengaluru-Tumakuru-Arsikere Section: Proposed RUB in lieu of LC No. 61 at km 100/320-720 between Nittur (NTR) - Sampige Road (SPGR) Stations (double track) (size 1x6.00mx5.00m) RCC box by rolling in/launching method. **Sub Work - II** : Bengaluru-Tumakuru Arsikere Section : Proposed RUB in lieu of LC No. 62 at km 101/690-700 between Nittur - Sampige Road stations (double track) (size 1x6.00mx5.00m) RCC box by rolling in/launching method. **Sub Work- III**: Bengaluru-Tumakuru-Arsikere Section: Proposed RUB in lieu of LC No. 64 at km 105/490-498 between Nittur-Sampige Road stations (double track) (size 1x6.00mx5.00m) RCC box by rolling in/launching method. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 15,19,44,898/-
5	**Bangaluru -Jolarpettai Section:** Road Under Bridge (RUB) in lieu of LC No. 97 at km 233/100-200 RCC Box of size 1x7.50mx5.0mx1.53 (Barrel length 12.30 mtrs) by rolling/launching method in ADEN/Bangarpet Sub Division. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 4,90,12,169/-
6	**Bangaluru -Jolarpettai Section:** Improvements to 128 Nos. Bridges in Assistant Divisional Engineer / Bangarpet Sub Division. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 1,28,99,032/-
7	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Mandya Sub Division: Proposed construction of Type - II quarters in lieu of Quarters No. 10/A-D, 12, 13, 20/A-B (8 Units) at Bidadi (BID). Maintenance period is 12 months.	Rs. 1,61,57,867/-
8	Bengaluru - Jolarpettai Section: Replacement of stone slab bridges with RCC box (11 Nos in Jolarpettai-Bengaluru and Bangarapet-Marikuppam Sections, Bridge. No. 691, 695, 696, 727 of Bengaluru- Jolarpettai section and Bridge No. 8, 30, 33, 36, 41, 44, 45 of Bangarapet-Marikuppam Section). Maintenance period is 6 months	Rs. 3,62,23,172/-
9	**Bengaluru Division:** Fabrication and supply of temporary girder and steel cribs to the stores depot of SSE/Bridge/Bengaluru unit. Maintenance period is 1month	Rs. 4,61,29,700/-
10	**Bengaluru Division:** Strengthening of superstructure by regirdering of Bridge No. 328 (9x18.9m) in Gowribidanur (GBD) yard at km 76/900-77/000 in Bengaluru-Dharmavaram Section. Maintenance period is 1 month.	Rs. 2,06,37,164/-
11	**Bengaluru Division:** Strengthening of superstructure by re-girdering of Bridge No. 122 (1x12.19m) in between Muttampatti - Sivadi (MPC-SZV) at km 51/100-200 and Bridge no. 531 RUB (1x12.22m) in between Karmelram-Baiyyappanahalli at km 205/200-300 in Salem-Bengaluru Section. Maintenance period is 1 month.	Rs. 35,52,743/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 13-11-2023**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/467/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination/Bengaluru**

South Western Railway - SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the public that we have been engaged by our client with an intention to mortgage lands situated at Mallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, and Bangalore South Taluk, admeasuring 17 Acres 12 Guntas ("Schedule Property") owned by M/s. CASA GRAND LOTUS PRIVATE LIMITED ("CGLPL"), a company having its registered office at No. 111, NPL Devi, LB Road, Thiruvamiyar, Chennai – 600041, and therefore we are investigating the ownership, title and interest of CGLPL to the Schedule Property. The details of the Schedule Property are provided in the schedule below.

If any person or entity (i) has or asserts to have any claim, right, title, interest, pending litigation or demand of any nature in relation to the Schedule Property or any part thereof and/ or any claim by way of, under, or in the nature of sale, share, conveyance, acquisition, partition, transfer, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, inheritance, succession, possession, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, maintenance, easement, license, bequeath, bequest, assignment, lien, attachment, decree, award or order of any court of law or authority, development rights, right of way, lis pendens, family arrangement / settlement, reservation, or under any contract / agreement / writing / document or other disposition, FSI/FAR consumption, or any liability or commitment or otherwise over the Schedule Property or any portion(s) thereof; or (ii) has any objection(s) of any manner whatsoever are hereby called upon to submit their statements, objections or claims in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned, within **fifteen (15)** days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, we would conclusively presume that no person has any right, title, interest, claim, demand, charge or encumbrance whatsoever existing on the Schedule Property or any part thereof, and the claim or objection, if any, has been knowingly waived and we will issue our opinion confirming that the current owners have all rights, title and interests in respect of the Schedule Property. Any claims or objections received thereafter shall be deemed to be forfeited / waived and shall not be entertained in any manner whatsoever and shall not be binding.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of lands situated at Mallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, and Bangalore South Taluk, admeasuring 17 Acres 12 Guntas which is more fully detailed in the table herein below:

Sl. No.	SURVEY NUMBERS	EXTENT Including Kharab Land	BOUNDARIES			
			EAST BY	WEST BY	NORTH BY	SOUTH BY
1	18/1A5	1 Acre 36 G	Halla	Remaining portion Sy No 18/1A5 & road	Sy No 18/2	Sy No18/1A6
2	18/3	1 Acre 17 G	Halla	Sy No 18/1A6	Sy No 18/1A5	Sy No 18/1A7
3	18/1A7	1 Acre 21 G	Halla	Remaining portion Sy No 18/1A7 & road	Sy No 18/1A6	Sy No 18/1A8
4	18/1A8	1 Acre 32 G	Halla	Remaining portion Sy No 18/1A8 & road	Sy No 18/1A7	Sy No 18/1A9
5	18/1A9	1 Acre 18 G	Halla	Remaining portion Sy No 18/1A9 & road	Sy No 18/1A8	Sy No 18/1A10
6	18/1A10	3 Acre 07 G	Village Boundary of Horathinakere	Sy No 21 and 18/1A3	Sy No 18/1A9	Sy No 18/1A11
7	18/1A11	3 Acre 05 G	Halla	Land bearing Sy No. 18/1A3	Land bearing Sy No. 18/1A10	Land bearing Sy No. 18/1A12
8	18/1A12	2 Acre 36 G	Village Boundary of Horathinakere	Land bearing Sy No. 18/1A3	Land bearing Sy No. 18/1A11	Land bearing Sy No. 19

Mr. Hardeep Sachdeva, Advocate
AZB and Partners
Plot No. A-8, Sector 4, Noida -201301
Email: hardeep.sachdeva@azbpartners.com

Place: Bangalore
Date: 29-10-2023

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Udupi
Rajathadri", B Block, 1st Floor, Room No B-208, Manipal, Udupi

NO:EE/RWSSDU/Tender No.08/2023-24/JE-1/ Dated: 27.10.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION.

Tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of Governor of Karnataka in "TWO COVER SYSTEM" through Government of Karnataka Public Procurement (KPP) portal for the 2 no of works costing Rs. 715.90 Lakhs to Rs.782.43 Lakhs sanctioned under JJM. Eligible contractors shall apply for this tender.

Calender Of Events

1. The Contractor can download the tender document from: 27.10.2023
2. Last Date for Submission of tenders : 02.11.2023 up to 4.00 PM.
3. Opening of Technical bid for the tender: 03.11.2023 after 4.30 AM
4. Opening of Financial bid of the tender : 04.11.2023 after 5.00 AM.

The blank tender documents can be viewed or downloaded from E-proc portal, Details of work/eligibility of contractor/Tender processing fees/dates of events etc. can be had from website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Further information can be had from the undersigned during office hours. Right of acceptance of tender is reserved.

E-proc portal helpdesk: 080-22371090/22373788
Hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com

Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Udupi

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E-RD 148 GRC 2023 **Date:04.10.2023**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the report of the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District, Bengaluru and after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that M/s Nafiya Tours and Travels is involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that M/s Nafiya Tours and Travels and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of the M/s Nafiya Tours and Travels and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of M/s Nafiya Tours and Travels.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the reports of the Competent Authority, M/s Nafiya Tours and Travels and Special Officer and Competent Authority IMA and other Scams and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2)of Section 3 of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong M/s Nafiya Tours and Travels.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches immovable property as specified in the Annexure to this order believed to have been acquired by the M/s Nafiya Tours and Travels either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the M/s Nafiya Tours and Travels and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishments, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishments is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the afore said Immovable property from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forthwith vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

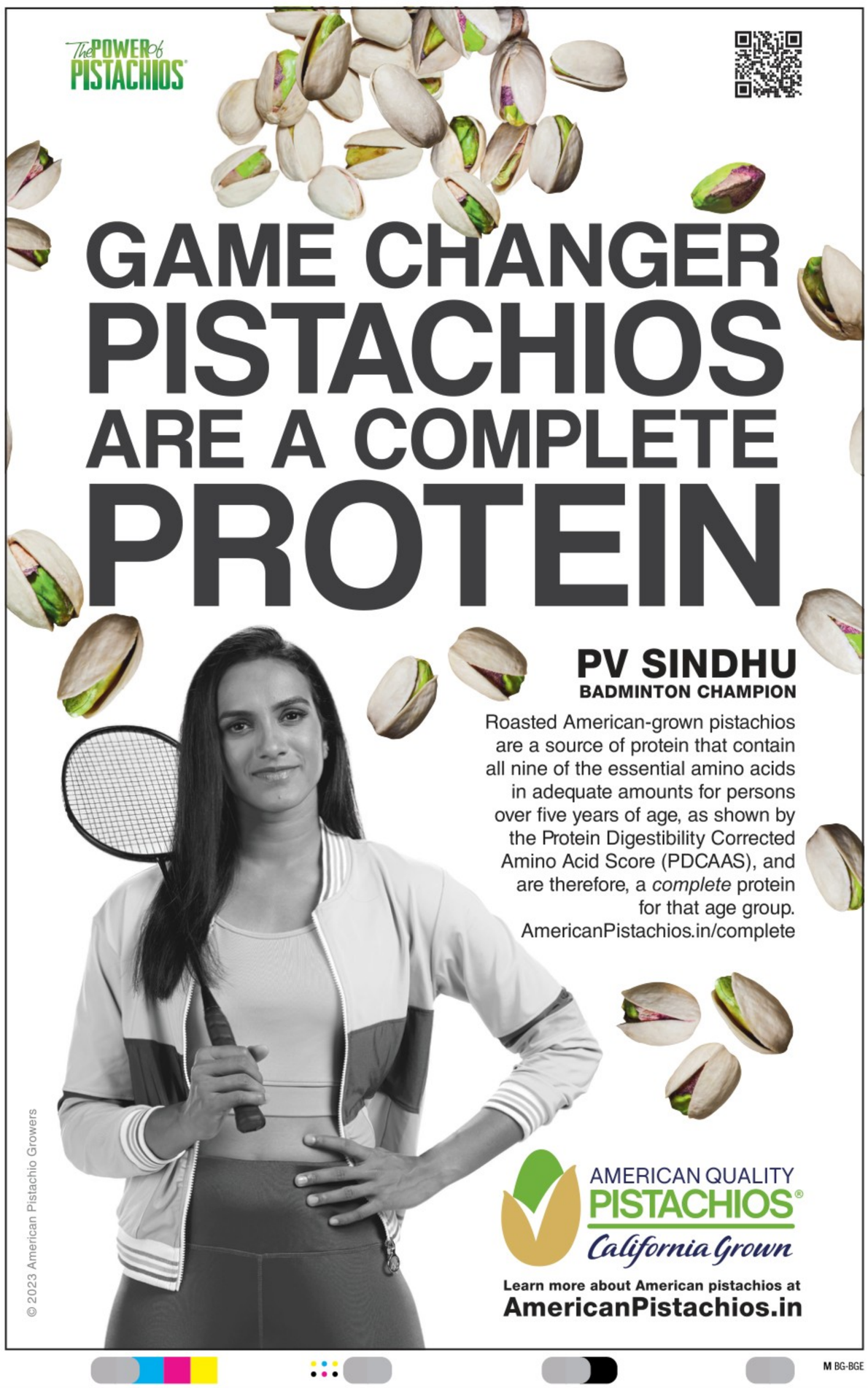
Annexure

ಮೆ॥ ನಾಫಿಯ ಟೂರ್ಸ್ ಅಂಡ್ ಟ್ರಾವೆಲ್ಸ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ವಿವರ:

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.	ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ವಿವರ (ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ)	ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ಮಾಲೀಕರು	ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ವಿವರ	ಖರೀದಿ ದರ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಷರಾ
1	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ತಣಿಸಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿ.ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಪಿ. ವಾರ್ಡ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 06, ವಾಸದ ಉಪಯೋಗದ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಭಾಗ ನಂ–1, ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 34 ಮತ್ತು 13, ಮನೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:13, ಸ್ವತ್ತು 13 ರ ಮೂಲಕ ಇದ್ದಂತೆ ಪೂರ್ವದಿಂದ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ 30 ಅಡಿ ಉತ್ತರದಿಂದ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ 40 ಅಡಿ ಅಳತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 1200 ಚದುರ ಅಡಿ **ಚಕ್ಕು ಬಂದಿ ವಿವರ:** ಪೂರ್ವ:– ರಸ್ತೆ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ– ಸೈಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 37 ಉತ್ತರ –ಸೈಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 33 ದಕ್ಷಿಣ– ಸೈಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 35	ಶ್ರೀ ಸೈಯದ್ ತನ್ವೀರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಸೈಯದ್ ವಾಜಿದ್	ಮಾರಾಟಗಾರರು 1.ಶ್ರೀ ಆಸಿಫ್ ಇಕ್ಬಾಲ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಅನ್ವರ್ ಪಾಶ 2.ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ.ಎ. ರಶೀದ್ ಬಿನ್ ಯೋಸಫ್ ಸಾಹೇಬ್ 3.ಶ್ರೀ ಸೈಯದ್ ಜಬಿಯುಲ್ಲಾ ಬಿನ್ ಸೈಯದ್ ಅಮೀರ್ ಜಾನ್ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: BNS-1-10382-2017-18, CD Number BNSD631, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.10.2017 ರಂದು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸ ಲಾಗಿದೆ.	ರೂ. 28,00,000/– **ನಗದು ಪಾವತಿಯ ವಿವರ:** 1.ದಿನಾಂಕ:05.08.2017 ರೂ.1,60,000/– 2. ದಿನಾಂಕ:10.09.2017 ರೂ.1,75,000/– 3. ದಿನಾಂಕ:15.10..2017 ರೂ.1,75,000/– **ಚೆಕ್ ಪಾವತಿಯ ವಿವರ:** 1. ಚೆಕ್ ನಂ.180903,ದಿನಾಂಕ:26.10.2017 ರೂ.2,50,000/–, ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ನಗರ ಶಾಖೆ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. 2. ಚೆಕ್ ನಂ.180904,ದಿನಾಂಕ:26.10.2017 ರೂ.2,50,000/–, ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ನಗರ ಶಾಖೆ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. 3. ಚೆಕ್ ನಂ.180905,ದಿನಾಂಕ:26.10.2017 ರೂ.2,00,000/–, ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ನಗರ ಶಾಖೆ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು **ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ಜಿ.ಎಸ್/ನೆಫ್ಟ್ ಪಾವತಿಯ ವಿವರ:** 1. ದಿನಾಂಕ:01.08.2017, ರೂ.1,00,000/– ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:1262980667, ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ನಗರ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. 2. ದಿನಾಂಕ:01.08.2017, ರೂ.1,00,000/– ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 721322653373, ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ನಗರ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. 3. ದಿನಾಂಕ:11.08.2017, ರೂ.1,00,000/– ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:1270786904, ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್,ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ನಗರ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. 4. ದಿನಾಂಕ:24.08.2017, ರೂ.2,00,000/– ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 723623017326, ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ನಗರ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. 5. ದಿನಾಂಕ:24.08.2017, ರೂ.1,40,000/– ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:723623034462, ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ನಗರ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. 6. ದಿನಾಂಕ:25.08.2017, ರೂ.50,000/– ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:723700036666,ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್,ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ನಗರ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. 7. ದಿನಾಂಕ:10.10.2017, ರೂ.5,00,000/– ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 1310107417,ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್,ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ನಗರ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. 8. ದಿನಾಂಕ:10.10.2017, ರೂ.4,00,000/– ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:1310111820,ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ.ಸಿ.ಐ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ನಗರ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.	ಮೌಲ್ಯ ಮಾಪನ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಮೌಲ್ಯ ಮಾಪಕರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.	ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿದೆ

Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/1897/2023-24



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LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

KERALA HINDU, Girl, Divorcee 34/166 cm, Wheatish, CNB, Ph.D, Asst Professor in Central University, Delhi. Well educated family, seeks similar minded, working in Delhi/NCR. Ph: 9447400724

DOCTOR

TAMIL MUSLIM parents invite alliance for daughter MBBS 24yrs / 152cm / wheatish from religious Tamil–speaking MBBS/PG Doctors settled in Hyderabad. C/W: 7013724670

SOUTH–BASED AFFLUENT Christian family invites alliances for their daughter age 27 Post–Graduate Doctor. Suitable alliances from Christian Groom–PG Doctor contact: drajan3809@gmail.com/8920762703

DOCTOR GIRL 30/155 Physician/ MD Gen.Medicine,seeks Doctor/ Engineer/ Govt.Officer grooms (Kerala / Tamil Nadu) 9447 493034 / 9497 168001.

Tamil Hindu Agamudayar, MBBS, MD, 29 years fair seeks BC doctor groom Ct: 9443010858.

PROPOSAL FROM Doctors For a Fair Beautiful Hindu Doctor Girl MBBS MD 31 Years. Ct: 95000 23500

DOCTOR MD Anaes Hindu Nadar 27/75/170 Seeks EQ Professional Groom From Suitable Family. Brokers Excused. 9976610580

TAMIL HINDU SC AD 32year Doctor MBBS, DCH, DNB (Pediatrics) working in Pondicherry seeking groom Contact : 9443634719

GROOM WANTED
Reputed Reddy Family in Chennai Invites Alliance for Daughter 32/165, Doctor MBBS, MS, Looking for Tall Educated Groom from affluent family CNB.
Call: 89256 40111

GROOM WANTED
ELITE REPUTED AGAMUDAIYAR FAMILY Running Educational Institutions in Chennai. Invites Alliance for Daughter 26/168 Cms, Fair Good Looking Doctor, MS ENT. Looking for Doctor, MD/MS Groom from affluent Mukkulathor / Mudaliar family
PH: 9500063847

KAMMA NAIDU, 27/168, MDS., BPS., (Prosthodontics and Implantology) certified BPS Specialist, Uthiratathi, Meenam, Mesham seeks Doctor Groom. Ph: 9842131535

Tamil Muslim, 24, Dentist, Fair, well Educated, Upper Middle Class Family seeks Professionally Educated Groom. (Preferably Dentists) Ct: 9884253777

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

Age 26 Daughter of IAS Officer Retired ACS. Only IAS, IPS, IRS, CISF Officer 32 & below. Correspondence only in Email: drpvj5999@gmail.co

MALAYALAM

CASTE NO BAR (JE, SOUTHERN RAILWAY) MALAYALI GIRL. 21/03/86 (POOYAM) CON: +919895671452

NRI

BALIJA NAIDU, Bharani 26/150 (B.S., M.S., in USA) working as V.P in Fin. Firm in NewYork seeks well settled S.W Grooms in US. Ct: 9842350850

Hindu Mudaliyar Girl 32/167cm, BS, US Citizen Working in IT MNC Seeks Dr./S.Engr. Boys settled in US. Wapp: +1(469) 305-6277 / Ph: 63824 71829.

TAMIL

MUDALIAR 26, BE, MBA, Working UK, 162cm,Fair,well Settled Family Seeks Alliance CNB 8778514465/ 7200866346

THE HINDU
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TAMIL

SMART RC Tamil (35) Senior Engineer, USA desires suitable RC Tamil in USA. Parents: 9345421430

PILLAI/ MUDALIAR B.E/Kettai / MNC, 1996 Born, Reputed Business family seeks alliance. Ph: 98400 93322

RC GIRL 26/170cm Working In Microsoft. Parents Keralite Settled In Chennai. Own Business Seeks Chennai Based Groom From a Good Family Background. 98841 85583

NATHAMAR UDAYAR, catholic 30 yrs, HR–MNC in Chennai, girl separated shortly with null and void order looking for catholic boy below 33 yrs, premier institute or professional with null and void or unmarried with clean habits, WhatsApp: 6380390185

NADAR CHRISTIAN girl from well educated, very rich family, fair, God–fearing, very beautiful; employed in a reputed Company drawing good Salary. The boy should be well educated from a Christian rich family. Parents Contact. 98401 29090.

CHRISTIAN NADAR – 23. MBBS., Fair Girl. Seeks Suitable Groom. Doctor, Engineer. Abroad. Ct : 7824023030.

CHRISTIAN DKV 33/157 B.Tech, MSc, Ph.D, University employed, USA seeks professional working 33–35yr groom in USA, well educated, God–fearing family. Mail: greysel1990@gmail.com/ WhatsApp: 9444386465/ 9566203917

TAMIL MUSLIM Girl, 28/165cm Electrical Engineer, Singapore Citizen, Good looking Seeks suitable alliance– NRI, Overseas Educated, Good Family, Willing to relocate Ct: 8056007500/email: habeebmillennia@gmail.com

SENGUNTHAR DIVORCEE 38 Yrs B.Tech MNC Fair seeks Good looking well Educated Groom same/subsect. CT: 93448-50134.

SC ADIDRAVIDA Divorced No Child, Age 38 BE EEE Wkg in MNC .Well settled. Seeks Suitable Groom. 9940347310

PILLAI / Mudaliyar Divorced fair Girl Age 32 PG seeks Groom to be in Chennai from Elite Family 9345158257

GROOM WANTED–RICH Mudaliyar, 28yrs, B. Arch, Elite business family in Chennai Cont:9710093999/ 8939691888

NAIDU–CASTE NO Bar. 25y, BDS, Dr.50k/pm Seeks Dr, BE, IT. Good Family Background. Nithya: 7358638363

MBBS DR. TN Govt Chennai 23–02–90 fair slim 165 cm magaram uthiradam 4 Hindu Naidu Elite Family seeks Dr, Class A officer, Business Groom. Any Hindu FC/BC. 9841743266.

BC (KALLAR) Remarriage 39 Yrs M.Sc M.Phil Working in Pvt School (Admin Dept.) seeks good looking & good professional groom from same / equal caste. 9677970128,9486457204

DOCTOR REDDY Elite Family Fair29/ 160 Pooram Simmam MD AIIMS Delhi Seeks Professional Groom CNB 9841047406

Hindu Nadar, 26yrs, PhD. (NanoTech) Gd looking, seeks highly qualified from same caste 9585452877/ 7639366767 e-mail: arjunapandian@hotmail.com

PILLAI / MUDALIAR, 34, MD, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 34-36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. Contact: 93458 55735

GROOM WANTED Elite Mudaliyar, MBBS, MS, 28yrs, well Educated Family. Contact: 9710093999/ 8939691888

SOZHIA VELLALA 25/ 150/ Medium/ Swathi BE(CS) 12 LPA seeks groom from Vellalar/ Pillai/Mudaliar 9597572733

HINDU TAMIL Mudaliar Chennai Girl / 32 /155 /58/MA/HR Mgr/MNC B'lore /Fair Beautiful /Kettai 3rd padham /Viruchigam /Chevvai Dosham /Divorcee No kids /Seeks suitable Mudaliar Grooms Subsect No Bar, Up To 36 Yrs. Contact 9043735140.

HINDU/CHRI, 1992 working Asis Prof (Dr, HOD) Univer Chennai, seeking working groom 9443118355

TAMIL YADAVA Girl (Divorcee) BE, MBA Software Engineer 38 Years seeks alliance from Engineers / Professionals.Caste no bar. Call. 9444915440

SEEKING IIT BTech Plus US PhD groom from Tamil Iyer families with strong values for our daughter IIT BTech US PhD 25/168. Non smoker teetotaller vegetarians. Tel: 9840570320/ Mail 1ramankk@gmail.com

TAMIL

SWE BE MNC Chennai 40/167cm 20Lac p.a BC from Coimbatore, 1st Marriage Mirugaseerisham Rishaba Rasi, seeks Groom BC/FC only. Ct: 89394-68628.

DOCTOR DCH,MD(PATHOLOGY) 38yrs, Hindu, BC, Divorcee without Child, temporarily working in Government, seeks well settled, compatible & affectionate Groom. CNB. Ph: 9176289180

HINDU NADAR 25/165, MBBS, MS, USA Settled. Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: KA RAMAN NADAR 9380791999/ 9047192999

RICH NAIDU, 27yrs, BE, MBA in UK, Ellie Business Family. Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9710093999/ 8939691888

SC AD Hindu, BE MBA, SBI Manager, 35yrs, Mesham–Bharani, seeking suitable & qualified Groom. Ph–8056104103

HINDU NADAR girl, 29 yrs, 168 cms, 65kg, ME, Thiruvathirai, Mithunam Seeks well settled, qualified groom. Ct : 96265 15511

CHRISTIAN GROOM WANTED
DOCTOR MBBS MD
Working in NHS London 39/167 Fair Tamil Protestant CSI Christian Nadar BC Innocent Divorcee no issues seeks Christian Doctor Groom / well settled Professionals in UK/ India. Caste no bar
Ph: 98435 26370

WANTED GROOM
Tamil Yadava 24 Years, Pooram - Simmam, 156cm / Fair / BE Looking alliance from affluent well educated settled groom.
Mail ID: kkda1099@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED
Hindu Nadar 35 yrs, Doctor, Good Looking Bride from reputed Business Group in Chennai. Looking from Doctor / Bureaucrats / Business Well to do Family
78108 22424

Bride Groom Wanted
Well Disciplined, Educated,Rich and Affluent Business Family seeks an Educated, well disciplined and a good looking Groom with similar family background from Tamilnadu. (Brahmin,Chettiyar, Mudaliar & other equivalents) for their daughters (98 and 99 born)
76049 97013

AD/SC Girl, 28, B.E.(ECE) Revathy-4 Employed Chennai seeks well Educated, Employed SC Boy. Ct:9176716076

Iyengar / Thenkalai / Bharadwaj, 25yrs 166cm, Visakam- (2) Ragu Dosham, B.E, MBA, Working in Wipro (HR) Chennai. Middleclass, Seeks Suitable Groom. Same Caste.Ct: 76396 60338.

AD (PR) 30/162cm B.E.,CSE,MS Ph.d working in USA seeks USA working groom, Age 30 - 33yrs, well Educated, Loving, Non- Vegetarian, same caste prefd email: shreebalan26@gmail.com Whats App: 97506 47711

HINDU Nadar, 29yrs/ 160cm Moolam Dhanush, B.Tech(CS) Working-CISCO Bangalore seeks Groom with similar Background. Ct: 91768 00819

CHRISTIAN SC/AD 35/160 M.Tech, Govt. Bank officer, Seeks Groom Dr. Er. any Govt officer.Ct 9940130074

Adi Dravida/SC Girl 29/175cm, MBA, Good Looking, Well Settled Family seeks sutiable Groom Ct: 7904233514

Tamil Muslim, Elite fmy MA(HR) MNC Chennai Seeks Professional or Business groom. Ph: 9841659786

✔ **HINDU NADAR, Chennai, Good Looking Truly Fair Doctor Girl, 24yrs, 160 cm, Doing MD Derm, Rich affluent, Only daughter. Seeking suitable PG Dr. with clean habits from Hindu Nadar only. Dad: 9444759246**

BRIDES WANTED

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

SEEKING BRIDE for 45 years old tamil working in Wipro, caste no bar. Contact 9597113308 / rvivekin.cbe@gmail.com

COSMOPOLITAN

COIMBATORE 47 Years, 172 cm, 68kg, monthly 1 lakh, no demands Email: hereiam_hi@yahoo.com Ph: 9677776525

S.SPL DOCTOR (Tamil, Dec–91/185 cm/v.fair, clean habits, Hastham, working in Kochi) needs a noble, family oriented, tall, v.fair, PG clinical doctor /well qualified non medico bride from kongu vellalar, pillai, mudaliyar, kamma / general castes. Age 26–29 years. Parents: 93425–29547/90721–18800

DOCTOR

MUSLIM DOCTOR, MDS 54/170 never married, seeks bride. Simple, unassuming, sound finance, Parents died. Whatsap 8075479568

ENGINEER

Tamil Saiva Pillai 32 Years, Working in USA seeks Girl. Contact Mobile : 9740853655

PUNJABI

SM FOR SEP 91 born teetotaler Punjabi khatri boy working in pvt. company in Tirupati (AP). PH +917982678145

TAMIL

CSI Christian 28/165 B.D.S Doctor full time Practice, Chennai, good looking only son, well to do parents Dad - Dr, Mom - Engr seeks Bride CSI christian,fair,good looking well to do family. Ph: 94440 57211

SUITABLE BRIDE for a spiritual Christian slim PG surgeon with brown complexion 36/ 173/ 64 Assistant Prof. Govt. Medical College Hospital Tamilnadu. Residence and clinic at Chennai. Awaiting divorce no children. Send profile to selvarajans89@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR 43 B.Sc., Kadagam Poosam Diverse with 2 Male Children (Age10,12) Seeks Nadar Bride. Remarriage, CastNoBar, No Expectation Brokers Excuse SasiKumar 9840075677

CSI/ Christian 27yrs / 165cms, MBA, Working, 3.7LPA, Chennai seeks suitable Bride.Ct: 9677281464/9840139960

TAMIL

MUDALIYAR AGE 46 Well Settled Groom, Seeks 45 To 55 Well Settled Helping Minded, Widower, Divorcy Individual Person Good companion, Age, Caste No Bar. Ct: 8838225041

SOZHIYA Vellalar 35 MCA working in IDFC First Bank Branch Manager seeks suitable Bride. Mudaliar also preferd. Ct:9790596388, 9994159877.

MUDALIYAR, KETTAI,37/165, M. Tech.,(Ph.D), HOD, Pvt.Engg. College, Pondy Seeks Bride 29 to 36yrs 9942257578

BRIDE WANTED–HINDU Nadar 26/165, BE, Builder, Monthly Income 5Lakhs KA RAMAN NADAR 9380791999/ 9047192999

NADAR–27, BE.ARCH, 170cm. 80k/pm Seeks Suitable Normal Family Background. Chennai Any District:7397776595

MUDALIAR 30/ 178 cm, B.E, MS (USA) , Works in the USA, Family financially well off. Seeking a well educated and beautiful girl from a decent Hindu Family. Ct: 94445 74732

HINDU KONGU Vellala Gounder 36/183 Sadayam, B.Sc.,MBA Job&Business 30L P.A. Working Chennai Upper Middle Class Suitable Girl Any Degree& Any Caste in B.C.,Whatsapp: 9360323979

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR 30/172, BE, IRS, 600000, USA, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:K.A Raman Nadar 9380791999/ 9047192999

HINDU SC AD, 37/ BE/ PGD HRM/ Director– L&D, Sftwr Co., Chennai, Unmarried Mob: 7824035052

BE from IIT 6'2 Height Mudaliar 31 Tech Lead at Top MNC Hyderabad Sal 65 lacs seeks Bride Height from 5 4' Same or Allied Castes Doctor BE, CA. Mobile - 7382620365.

NAIDU CASTE no bar – 29Y. B.E , M.B.A 15L P.Y Suitable Fair Bride Normal Family.Any district : 7358638363

SC ADIDRAVIDA 37, B.Tech Bio Tech post graduate at U.K. Divorcee, employed as Business Development Manager & Product Specialist in Life Science sector, South India. Based at HYD seeks educated bride. CT:9884009749

MUDALIYAR, 26YRS, 178cm, V.Fair, Handsome, Thiruvonam, No Dosham, B.E. (Civil), Sr.Design Engr., L& T– Chennai, seeks suitable Bride, Subsect no bar. Ct: 9444398256/ 8754468741

SENGUNTHAR, 38/165, Widower, NRI. 65 Lacs, B.E. 2 Kids live together. Caste, Education, Wealth No expectations. Looking for unmarried family oriented girl. 7904495268

SAIVA VELLALA Mudaliar, 33/172, B.E (Civil)., MBA., Fair, Handsome, Unmarried, settled in Australia seeks well educated, Beautiful Bride willing to settle and work in Australia. Whatsapp: 00919025596171, sinduos@yahoo.in

HINDU MUDALIAR Groom, 1st Marriage, 45, 5ft 7inch, BE – ECE, Bangalore. 9886493369, rajdmohan@outlook.com

VELLALAR /SUBSECTS 27 years B.com BL.14Lacs MNC Chennai Minimum Graduate Veg/Non Veg Contact:7358200722

40 YRS, IT Professional, Australian Citizenship. Seeks Bride MBBS Doctor, Willing to Settle in Australia, Caste No Bar, Divorcee also Pref. without Child. Age 35 to 40yrs. Ct: 98844 83605

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 33yrs, BE, MBA, Elite Business Family, Own IT Company in Chennai. 9710093999/ 8939691888

TAMIL

MUDALIAR/ PILLAI, DOB:29.05.93/ 183cm, BE,MS(USA) N.Veg,Working inUSA,Seeks suitable Bride (25–28yr)Studying/Working in USA,Mother:9003713942

PILLAI, 42/172, BA, Fair, Handsome, Working Media, 7L p.a. Seeks Suitable Educated, Fair Bride 8870099659

MUDALIYAR/ PILLAI 31/ 172, B.Tech, MBA, Fair, Swathi Looking for Bride Good looking Qualified working girl, Chennai. Ct: 7200150474

AGE:25, 174CM, Meenam, Fair, Own Business, Diploma, Gramani Nadar. Ct: 9488224207

CHENNAI KIND tall fair innocent divorcee 40yrs GM sports. DR family. Cen.Govt 2 L / Mt. Edu simple girl. Ct : 98841 71419

HINDU NADAR–29Y, B.Tech, M.S,/USA / 20 Lakhs/P.M, Father Bank. Seeks want to go to USA. Ct: 7397776595

BRAHMIN IYER Kousiga Gothram, Magam born july 1988 working in Sharjah 240000 AED per annum seeking unmarried Brahmin girl. Call 9176641005

IYER Groom Mouthgalyam Pooradathi Meenam 41 yrs, TCS Non IT Chennai Sub-sect no bar. Ct: 97908 27138

TAMIL IYER 52,shortlived first marriage. Employed in a MNC,NCR. Looking for only Brahmin ladies as a life companion. Contact knvteja@yahoo.com / 7827675952

HINDU SC Revathi,Meenam 1986 Govt. Bank Dep. Manager seek suitable bride.CT:9486516501,9894559191

PILLAI 36yrs Ayilyam masters in Banking and Finance, working in MNC 25L PA seeks suitable Educated Girl from decent family same caste.9445068271

Tamil Iyer Boy 30yrs B.E / PGDB&F, Working, Own House, Family well settled in Chennai, Seeks Qualified, Working Bride with Good Family Background. Ct:9080393228 / 9444010933

IYER VADAMAL, Kasyapa Poorattathi 44yrs / 161cm, M.Sc, Working in MNC Chennai, 18L P.A, seeks Educated Employed/Un Employed Bride. subsect No Bar. Ct:9943306563/044-29503379

MUDALIAR ELITE 29/180, V.Handsome, BE, Business Builders, 10000000. PA, 300.Cr,CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU 30yrs Rohini Rishabam Fair Business (Surgical Mfg) Seeks Any Telugu Caste Bride. 9790963402.

AGE 26, Height 5ft 8inch, MBA, Genpact Jonnalagadda Family required Bride from Vaidiki Brahmin Family. 9701060771

GAVARA 27/180 cm Pooram Simmam B.E-ECE Working in MNC Rs.8Lac p.a seek suitable well settled Qlfd working Bride subsect no bar. CT:94440-23748

KAMMA NAIDU 49/186 Sadayam, MCA Divorcee No Issues, IT Project Manager, 30 Lacs. Seeks Bride. 8248522648

BALIJA 28/ 176cms /Kiruthigai/ BE good salary, IT sector, Chennai. Seeks bride. Ct 9677140810.

BALIJA 29/180 cms, Magam, Simma Raasi /BE/ M.S (Ger) working in Germany 51Lpa. Financially Sound. Seeks Suitable Qualified Bride–Sub Sects No Bar. Ct: 9442623203 / 9442838203

✔ **BALIJA, 26/164** Avitam, Magaram, BE, MBA, V.Fair MNC seeks working, Fair,Gd Looking Bride. Ct:9444971365 Mail: mkrishnakumar1965@gmail.com

Kamavar Naidu, 26yr/175cm, Magam, BE(CSE) Working in Bangalore,12LPA Upper middle class.Chennai seeks suitable Bride. 9003887956/ 9944900410

URDU

SMU 35/5.9 BE/MBA working in MNC Bang, unmarried, teetotaler. Chennai based family parents seeking educated bride from TN or Bang 9176219286

SMU/AGE 42/ Unmarried/BBA/MANAGER Shipping Company in Chennai,well settled Urdu Speaking Bride 9094535986

MARRIAGE BUREAU

NAIDUS ONLY Doctors, Engineers PG UG, USA, UK 98434 53228, 97874 53228

USA UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN IYER, 31, 180 cms, Director, MBA. Lives in Bangalore. Parents is Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

BRAHMIN IYER, 32, 170 cms, Director, Masters. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448344

VANNIAKULA KSHATRIYAR, 25, 180 cms, Businessman, BBA. Lives in Chennai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

CHETTIAR, 34, 170 cms, Software Engineer, ME. Lives in Germany. Father is an Employed. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

REDDY, 32, 178 cms, MBA, Divorced. Lives in Madurai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

IYENGAR, 26, 178 cms, Working Professional, Masters in International Law. Lives in the UK. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

BRAHMIN IYER, 28, 157 cms, Student, MBA. Lives in USA. Parents are working professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

KONGUVELLALA GOUNDER, 31, 173 cms, Director, MBA. Lives in Coimbatore. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for suitable match. Contact: 6366448344

NADAR, 29, 165 cms, Doctor, Cardiology Fellowship. Lives in US. Father is Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

INTER RELIGION, 34, 163 cms, Analyst, MBA. Lives in USA. Parents are Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448344

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 63 66 44 83 47

ENGLISH

✔ **MANGLORIAN 47YRS** Divorcee warm hearted settled in Chennai looking for a like minded women. Ct: 9884027500

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

NAIR BOY, 30/180, Pooram, Suddha Jathakam, BE (Civil), MS (USA), engaged as Executive Director in Family Business having Pan India Operations, Settled in Chennai Invites Proposals of Professionally Qualified Nair Girls with Suddha Jathakam. Contact: 9840397130/ 9962597100.

HINDU EZHAVA Man, Govt. Plus Two Teacher, Gazetted Officer, 51, Chathayam, Trivandrum 9447005305

Malayalam Speaking tall good looking Girl for a Chennai based NAIR Boy 28 CHOTHI 193 IT MNC Chennai. (Occasionally photo epileptic) Contact: 9444414951

NRI

NAIDU 28/180,POORATATHI, BTech, MS Working as Research Engr ,PR of Sweden, Wanted Bride Call 9566682220.

TAMIL

RC CHRISTIAN, 41yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer,never married,Chennai,seeks educated bride,CT– 9500188067

MUSLIM,40 Ph.D.,M.Sc (yoga) Seeks Bride, Immediate Marriage. No Demand. Ct: 9342585072

TAMIL HINDU Nadar, B.Tech, Industrialist, 29/180, Fair, Athletic, Seeks Bride, CNB. 9326750083, 9967161688

WANTED A suitable, well-educated bride for research scientist, USA 46 year old, Reddy (caste no bar) intrested profile Ct : 9443498385.

SC AD 46, Govt. University Professor seeks Bride / Widow for remarriage. Caste no Bar. CT: 63854-67085.

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 31yrs, M. Arch, Elite Business Family. Contact: 9710093999/ 8939691888

BRIDE WANTED SC (AD) 30yrs, BE, MS working in MNC, 2Lakhs pm, Well Educated Family 9710093999/ 8939691888

BRIDE WANTED– Elite Mudaliyar, 27yrs, B.Com, Elite Business Family in Chennai. Ct: 9710093999/ 8939691888

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 34/170, BE, 300000, Working in Bangalore. KA Raman Nadar: 9380791999/ 9047192999

TAMIL

BE, MBA,42, Cyber security, IT, Chennai Tamil boy seeks Good character Girl for his 1st Mrg: 9742033888

HINDU DKV 38/160 BE SWE Germany 60/ L PA Pooradam Dhanus Seeks Brides DRs SWE IT Field move to Germany CNB. Ct: 94433 66333/ 9487 571853

5FT 7INCH 36, BE. Bits, Ex Sr. Associate IT, now Business, Chennai, affluent family, F Pillai M Iyer, doctors, Veg. Contact 9442026869

PILLAI/ MUDALIAR, 28, ML, practising Lawyer in Chennai High Court, seeks suitable working bride from well settled decent family. 9840449914

TAMIL MUSLIM, BE, MBA, SWE, 30/180 Working in MNC, Chennai seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 9444008160

ELITE MUDALIYAR 30yrs B.Tech, MS (US) Working in US, Seeks Elite Family Background 9176718886/ 8939691888

✔ **AD NEVER** Married Above 49 B.E, healthy slim, rich, good habits want Dr. Engr. Bride Below 34 Never married slim fair healthy, rich Good family Caste Nobar WhatsApp: 7358664057

BRIDE WANTED Rich Naidu, 32yrs, BE, MS(US), Working in US, Elite Family Background 9962791888/ 8939691888

TAMIL

Pillai/ Mudaliar 35yrs, Hastham, MCA Fair, well settled Chennai seeks 37-40 Prof.Quaf working Groom.8220757159

Kongu Vellala Gounder, 29/165cms, MBBS, MD-Pharmacology, Senior Resident Medical college, Chennai. Rs.90,000/-pm. Seeks Suitable Qualified Groom,29-34yrs. Ct: 95511 44484

Wanted Viswakarma/Kammlar Tamil Groom for a Girl/28 Years/Dusky/5.3 feet height/Vegetarian/MS in Engineering with F1 status Visa/Working in USA. The Groom to be having H1B Visa and working in USA. 9940065366

TELUGU

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu , 26yrs, BE, Working in MNC, Elite business Family Contact:9962791888/ 9710093999

KAMMA NAIDU bride Elite family 29/ 170 BBA IMBA,UK Business Sadayam Kumbha seeks same community PG Elite groom in & around Chennai 9944236959

NAIDU ELITE 23/162 Fair, Beautiful, MSc, Father Owning Star Hotel, 70.Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

BALIJA NAIDU 55yrs, Working in Pvt., Co. seeks decent groom age between 60-70yrs. Ct: 70925 69171

TELUGU

Balija Naidu, 27/152cm, PG Graduate Fair, MNC- Chennai, seeks well settled Groom below 30yrs. Ct: 63809 84534, e-mail: saanvigklr@gmail.com

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM Slim, Fair, Good Looking, Orthodox, B.Tech. I.T. 23 years, 5.4 Ft Seeks Compatible match from well Educated Family. 9042581806

P.G.DOCTOR SMU Chennai Based, Parents Seeks Doctor/ Engineer Alliance from Tamil Nadu/ Bengaluru for their Daughter 32/5.6. Ct: 98415 24064

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GENERAL

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-76)
O.S. No.2451/2021
Hg. 03/11/2023

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, Having its Registered Office at: Landmark, Race course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 and Branch Office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068, Through its Authorised Representative Mr. Pramodh G. **...Plaintiff**

And :
Mr. Bhanu Prasad V. B. **...Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Bhanu Prasad V. B.
S/o Bala Subramanyam Yalamuri,
Aged about 37 Years,
R/at No. 21, Maruti Residency, Near Rainbow Residency, Junnasandra, Bangalore- 560040.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 11,29,863/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXXV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H. 76), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **03/11/2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 04th day of October, 2022 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE (CCH-06) AT BANGALORE
O.S NO. 845 /2022

Between:
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd., No.1, Shobha Pearl, 2nd Floor, MG Road, Commissariat Road, Bangalore-560025, and branch office at: 4/10, Mythree tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur main road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative. **...Plaintiff**

And:
Arun Kumar Thukaram **...Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant:
1. Arun Kumar Thukaram
S/o. Thukaram Solingere Rajgopal, Aged About 36 Years, Residing at No. # 106, 1st Cross, Kirloskar Colony, Near Anupama School, Mahalakshmi Puram, Bengaluru- 560086.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs. 10,00,901/- along with interest at the rate of 15% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-06), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **06/11/2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 04th day of October 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
#3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01.

INBRIEF

Temple priests to hold State-level convention in Feb.

The All Karnataka Temple Archaka-Agamika and Upadhi Professionals Federation has decided to host a State-level convention of all members and priests of all temples across the State in the city on February 7, 2024. The federation said the convention will be "historic" and will draw attention to its demands. It said their demands include providing full insurance coverage for temple priests; installing CCTV cameras on temple property to enhance security; and raising the monthly stipend for priests to ₹10,000.

Separate secretariat for ST welfare will be established: CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said a separate Scheduled Tribe Welfare Secretariat will be set up for faster approval of schemes and effective utilisation of funds meant for the upliftment of the community. Speaking after presenting the Maharishi Valmiki Award for 2023 to eight persons on the occasion of Valmiki Jayanti celebrations, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the STs constituted 7% while SCs constituted 17.1% of the State population. More than ₹34,000 crore had been earmarked in 2023-24 for welfare of SC/ST communities, he said. The secretariat would be formed for quick approvals, effective supervision, and faster implementation of schemes the Chief Minister said.

BJP trying to destabilise govt., but it won't succeed, says CM

Shivakumar too claims that BJP is hatching a conspiracy, while Kateel rubbishes allegation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/MANGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday alleged that Opposition BJP leaders in Karnataka are attempting yet another round of "Operation Kamala" to destabilise his government, and asserted that they will not be successful in their efforts, as none of the Congress MLAs will fall victim to it.

The Chief Minister was responding to party's Mandya MLA Ravikumar Gowda's (Ravi Ganiga) statement that a team which was behind the fall of the Congress-JD(S) coalition government in 2019 was now working to lure Congress MLAs by offering ₹50 crore and a Minister post, and four legislators have already been contacted, and there is evidence for it.

Responding to queries on it, Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "I have not spoken to Mr. Ravikumar Gowda, who has made the statement. But, I too have information that the BJP is attempting Operation Kamala to destabilise this government." Speaking to reporters here, he asserted that the saffron party will never be successful as no Congress MLA will fall victim to it.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking at Mangaluru International Airport on Saturday. H.S. MANJUNATH

Mr. Ravikumar Gowda had claimed that BJP veteran B.S. Yediyurappa's former PA, N.R. Santhosh, who had joined the JD(S) and lost the Assembly polls, was among those behind activities to lure legislators. Mr. Santhosh had played a key role in establishing contact with disgruntled MLA and Ministers in the JD(S)-Congress coalition government.

Back in 2019, the BJP had managed to pull 17 MLAs and Ministers resulting in the fall of the Congress-JD(S) coalition government led by H.D. Kumaraswamy. The BJP was the single-largest party then with 104 seats. Currently, the BJP has only 66 MLAs, JD(S) 19, and the Congress has 135 MLAs in the 224-member State Assembly.

In his response to Mr. Ravikumar Gowda's remarks, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar too claimed that the BJP is hatching a conspiracy to topple the Congress government in the State but it would not work. "We are aware of everyone's conduct. He (Gowda) has taken a youngster's name, but big people are making efforts in this too, but nothing will happen."

A few days ago, Mr. Shivakumar himself had alleged that a team is active in the BJP to destabilise the State government, and the Congress legislators have apprised him and Mr. Siddaramaiah as to who is in touch with them and what offer is being made to them.

'A faction will leave'

Responding to the allegations in Mangaluru, BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel said there was no question of BJP attempting to destabilise the government. "There are already three factions in State Congress, one of Mr. Siddaramaiah, one of Mr. Shivakumar, and another of Minister Satish Jarkiholi. Shortly, there will be resort politics and one faction will come out."

CM-Parameshwara dinner meeting creates a flutter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sources claim Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar was 'deliberately kept out' of the meeting

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his loyalist Ministers attending a dinner party at Home Minister G. Parameshwara's residence in Bengaluru on Friday has stirred a controversy with sources claiming that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar was "deliberately kept out" of the meeting.

Sources in the Congress told *The Hindu* that PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi and Minister for Social Welfare H.C. Mahadevappa attended the dinner meeting and discussed political issues.

Sending a message

The meeting was to send a message to followers of Mr. Shivakumar's camp, some of whom have again started issuing open statements related to power sharing in the State. The meeting followed Mandya MLA Ravikumar Gowda's (Ravi Ganiga) statement that Mr. Shivakumar would become the Chief Minister after 2.5 years of rule by Mr. Siddaramaiah.

It is believed that alleged differences between Mr. Jarkiholi and Mr. Shivakumar and issues related to Belagavi politics too have been discussed during the dinner meeting. A few days ago, Mr. Jarkiholi had not met Mr. Shivakuamar when he visited Belagavi.

Meanwhile, Mr. Parameshwara said that "there was nothing special" in the Chief Minister's meeting at his residence. When asked about it in Mangaluru, the Chief Minister too brushed it aside as "no more than dinner meeting."

'Last warning'

Meanwhile, instructing party MLAs not to make any open statements on matters related to the party's internal affairs or regarding the administration, Mr. Shivakumar, who is also KPCC president said: "This is the last warning and request. If such statements are made in the future, issuing notice will be inevitable," he said.

UNESCO heritage status to Hoysala temples will boost local tourism: PM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chennakeshava temple at Belur was inscribed by the UNESCO as World Heritage Sites in September this year. FILE PHOTO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who handed over appointment letters to over 51,100 newly inducted recruits through virtual mode on Saturday at Mysuru, referred to job opportunities in various fields as a fallout of all-round progress.

He referred to the UNESCO World Heritage site status for Hoysala temples and Shantiniketan and said that it will shore up tourism in those areas.

He also pointed out that Dhordo village in Gujarat was awarded the best tourism village by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation and all these augured well for tourism growth.

They will create new opportunities for the youth, said Prime Minister Modi. It will open up job opportunities in areas such as conducting tours and operating taxis or to work as guides, he added. The Prime Minister was speaking at the 10th edition of the Centre's Rozgar Mela virtually. It was held in Mysuru and 36 other cities and towns across the country.

Chennakeshava temple at Belur, Hoysaleshwara temple at Halebidu, and Keshava temple at Somanathapur were inscribed by the UNESCO as World Heritage Sites in September this year.

Driver proves innocence after 7-year legal battle

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

In a classic case of how failure to adhere to standard practices during investigation leads to innocents being punished, a driver from Kadur, unconnected to an accident, had to frequent Hubballi court for over seven years to prove that he was not the one who was wanted by the police.

In a case where the alleged offender vanished after an initial appearance before the court, an allegedly forged driver's licence (DL) book having his address put Jaykumar H.S., a driver from a village in Kadur taluk of Chikkamagaluru district, in trouble.

The case pertains to an accident on Hubballi-Dharwad Bypass Road that took place on June 1, 2010. The Hubballi North traffic police registered an FIR against the accused (truck driver) after the truck he was driving overturned, ultimately resulting in the death of the cleaner.

Advocate Vishwanath Bichagatti provided free legal aid to Jaykumar H.S. (right), a driver from Kadur, to prove his innocence. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Based on the chargesheet, the court took cognisance of the offence under sections 279 (driving in a negligent manner endangering human life) and 304-A (causing death by negligence) of the IPC (Indian Penal Code). The accused appeared before the court and was released on bail on August 4, 2012. He appeared before the court on September 6, 2012 pleading not guilty and then went absconding.

In a twist, Mr. Jaykumar started getting summons as the accused in the case in 2017. He appeared before the court and contended that he was not the alleged offender. His plea for stopping proceedings against him was dismissed on March 23, 2019 and a subsequent appeal before the sessions court met with the same fate.

Search for identity

"We subsequently approached the Dharwad Bench of the High Court of Karnataka on behalf of the petitioner, which directed the trial court to ascertain the identity of the accused to find out whether he is the alleged offender," said advocate Vishwanath Bichagatti, who provided free legal aid to Mr. Jayakumar and took up his case in 2017.

Jaykumar H.S. had to frequent Hubballi court for over seven years to prove that he was not the one who was wanted by the police

DL tampered with

The petitioner claimed that his identity proof (DL) was tampered with by the alleged real offender. On the other hand, the investigating officer and the prosecution claimed that the accused himself was the alleged offender and was trying to mislead the court.

After concluding the inquiry and hearing both sides, Judicial Magistrate First Class (Third Court) Anita Sali issued the order on September 25 to stop the proceedings against the accused. In her order, she said that the accused and the alleged offender were different persons based on the inquiry and examination of photographs and fingerprints.

Seeking compensation

Mr. Jaykumar is relieved now but feels that none should be subjected to the mental trauma he underwent over the last seven years. Mr. Bichagatti has approached the High Court again seeking compensation for the suffering Mr. Jaykumar underwent. "We have an adversary system of criminal jurisprudence where the state has to prove the guilt. Regretfully, we had to battle for a decade to establish innocence beyond reasonable doubt," he told *The Hindu*.

CM continues tirade against PM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Continuing his tirade against Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the hashtag #AnswerMadiModi, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday highlighted the water issues of Karnataka, including Cauvery dispute, Mahadayi river issue, and Mekedatu reservoir. In his message on X, he spoke of the "lack of support" from BJP in inter-State river water issues.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SECOND YEAR ANNIVERSARY

T. S. RENGARAJAN
DOB: 24.07.1939 DOD: 29.10.2021
FOUNDER
INDIAN OIL EMPLOYEES' UNION (SR)
inserted by
S.MOHANRAJ (GENERAL SECRETARY)
& ALL MEMBERS OF
INDIAN OIL EMPLOYEES' UNION (SR)

IN THE COURT OF XXTH ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-32)
OS. No.2908/2019.

PLAINTIFFS:1. Mr.SUDEEP KUMAR M.B. Son of Mr. M.P. Bharathan Aged 66 years
2. Mrs. AJITHA SUDEEP Wife of Mr.Sudeep Kumar M.B Aged 60 years Both plaintiffs residing. at 206, SJR Crystal Cove, Maragondanahalli, Shikaripalya Road, Electronic City Phase1 Bengaluru-560 105. **-V/s-**
DEFENDANT: Mr. PATEL KANTHIBHAI AMBALAL and Ors.
NOTICE/SUMMONS TO THE 3rd DEFENDANT UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 CPC
To. D3.Mr.P.RAVINDRA BABU Managing Partner of Nishita's Homes Residing at No.69, 2nd Cross, Puttenahalli Main Road, 24th Main, 5th Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bengaluru-560078
Whereas, the above named Plaintiffs instituted a suit against you for specific performance of Agreement of Sale dated 30.09.2013 and/or in the alternative for recovery of INR 36,00,000 (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs) to the Plaintiffs with interest from the date of suit till realisation and further to pay a sum of INR 30,00,000 to the Plaintiffs (Rupees Thirty Lakhs) as damages
You are hereby summoned to appear before this Court on **29th November 2023 at 11a.m. (CCH-32)** in person or through advocate/pleader to answer the questions to the same failing which the suit will be heard and determined as ex-parte
Schedule A Property
All that piece and parcel of property bearing BBMP Katha No.17/17/23/231/232/233/121/101 10,11,12,13 Sarakki Agrahara Uttarahalli Hobli Bengaluru South Taluk totally measuring about 11972 sqaure feet, bounded on:
East by: Road **West by:** Road
North by: Private Property **South by:** Main Road
Schedule B Property
Flat bearing number 109 situated in the first floor of the apartment building known as Nishita's Honey Square having a super built up area of 1040 square feet containing two bed rooms along with one covered car parking space along with undivided share measuring an extent of 235.3 square feet in Schedule A Property
Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this 11/10/2023
By Order of the Court
Sd/- Assistant Registrar
City Civil Court, Bangalore
Name, Signature and Address for Advocate for the Plaintiffs Srinivas. L, Advocate
No. 1558, 25th Main, 5th Cross, BTM 2nd Stage, Bengaluru -560076

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TRIVANDRUM DIVISION **WORKS BRANCH**

E-TENDER NOTICE No. V / W / TVC / 26 / 2023, Dated: 27.10.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Divisional Railway Manager / Works Branch / Trivandrum Division, Trivandrum-14 invites Online Tenders for the following works as per tender notice and Complete details are given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Description	Approx. Value ₹ in lakhs	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Period of Completion in Months
1	ZONE A - From KM 1.850 to KM 33.860 (VTK & TCR STNS both inclusive) & TCR-GUV Line KM 0.000 to 22.630 (Incl. GUV) Trichur permanent way section	49.53	99100	NINE
2	Trivandrum Division - Eliminating flooding of subways.	303.26	301600	SIX
3	ADEN / ERS - Sub-Division: Provision of Divyangjan facilities at Stations.	407.64	353800	TWELVE
4	ADEN / TCR - Sub-Division:- Provision of Divyangjan facilities at Stations	186.89	243500	TWELVE
5	SSE/KTYM Jurisdiction : Renovation of Track Machine Rest rooms at KTYM, KRPP, PVRD	82.60	165200	TWELVE
6	TVC P.Way section - Provision of CC side drain for 3.67 Km.	188.58	244300	SIX
7	TCR - Improvements to MFC building for use as RPF Barracks	21.71	43400	TEN
8	Construction of RPF Barrack at Kottayam	62.11	124200	TWELVE
9	Divisional Engineer / South Jurisdiction: Providing Water connections at LCs.	55.82	111600	SIX
10	DEN/S Jurisdiction - Increasing Transition length of curves in connection with increasing section speed to 110 kmph - track works	428.93	364500	TWELVE
11	Sr.DEN / North Jurisdiction - Increasing Transition Length of curves in connection with increasing section speed to 110/90 kmph - track works	568.63	434300	TWELVE

Tender Closing date and time: Sl No.: 1 to 11 : 23.11.2023 at 11.00 hrs

Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken into account while submitting.

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Shivamogga City Corporation, Shivamogga

No: ಶಿಮನಪಾಶಿ:ಆವಿ:ಸಿಆರ್:87/2023-24 Date: :26.10.2023

Short-term Tender Notification (Through Karnataka Public Procurement portal)

Tenders have been invited in Two-cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 1999-2000 and Act 2000 and as per standard tender document procedure to procure the following services in the limits of Shivamogga City Corporation. The suppliers who are interested in participating through Karnataka Public procurement tender can obtain the details in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

(1) Date of commencement of tender through Karnataka Public Procurement : **From 30.10.2023.** (2) Last date for submission of tender through KP procurement portal : **upto 06.11.2023.** (3) Date of opening of tender through K P procurement: **As per KPP portal.** (4) More details can be had from KPP portal and other details from this office during office hours.

Sl. No.	Details	Approx. amount (Rs in lakhs)	EMD amount (In Rs)	Grants
1	Work of procuring 03 number of auto tipper vehicles (3 CUM) for solid waste management for Shivamogga City Corporation.	34.00	68,000/-	15th Finance General Basic grants for the year 2022-23.
2	Work of procuring 04 numbers of vehicle mounted disinfectant sprayer vehicles for Shivamogga City Corporation	64.00	1,28,000/-	
3	Work of procuring 16 CUM capacity compactor vehicles for transportation of solid waste for Shivamogga City Corporation (02 Nos.)	99.90	1,99,800/-	General Basic Grant of 15th Finance Commission for the year 2023-24 and General Fund of Corporation for the year 2023-24.

Note: Any changes or corrigendum will be notified in K P Procurement portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Div 1)
Shivamogga City Corporation, Shivamogga.

DIPR/SMG/No.136-10/zenkar/2023-24

'Did not make a Dalit CM but people still approve of BRS'

BRS working president KTR asserts that people have accepted the party's stand and voted it to power twice; says mistake of voting Congress to power may push Telangana backwards for 5 years

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

> Opposition parties should not have any objection to the people's approval of accepting KCR leading the administration in Telangana
>
> **K.T. RAMA RAO**
> Working president of BRS

Working president of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and Minister K.T. Rama Rao has admitted that making a Dalit the Chief Minister of Telangana was one of the few promises that were not kept by the party, but the people approved the stand by supporting it with a higher majority in 2018 from the 2014 tally.

"The people and the party have accepted the decision of party chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao leading the administration of the new State for its better progress and the Opposition parties should not have any objection to the people's approval," he said during a meet-the-press event in Hyderabad on Saturday.

On the talk of Backward Classes (BC) census, he said the party had been demanding it along with a separate Ministry for BC communities since 2014. It was in the first session of the Telangana Assembly that the State adopted a resolution requesting the Centre to take up BC census, 33% reservation to BC communities in law-making bodies and also for the women quota within it, he added. However, there had been no response and only for the last couple of months the Congress leadership was reciting the demand.

On the Chief Minister not holding the daily *'praja darbar'*, the BRS leader said there was no need for it since the institutions at different levels were functioning properly and there would be the need for it only when they fail. On minorities' welfare, he said the per capita budgetary allocation and spending were highest in Telangana.

Mr. Rama Rao said people of Telangana had to pay dearly for about six decades because of one mistake committed by the Congress by accepting the region's merger with Andhra Pradesh. The mistake of voting Congress to power would push the State backwards for five years, he added.

Ex-Hamas chief's online speech sets off row in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

Palestinian leader and former Hamas chief Khaled Mashal addressed online a rally taken out by the Solidarity Youth Movement expressing support for the Palestinian people here on Friday. The live video address by the former Hamas chief triggered a controversy with Bharatiya Janata Party State president K. Surendran calling for legal action against the organisers.

The Solidarity Youth Movement raised the slogan "Uproot bulldozer Hindutva and apartheid Zionism" during its rally.

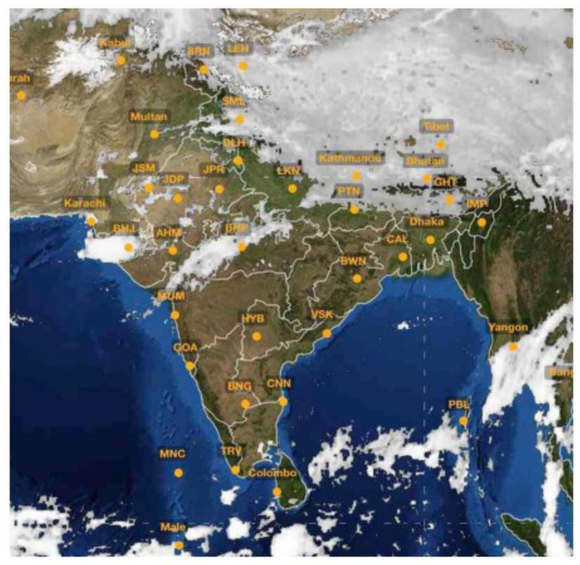
During his online speech, Mashal called upon the world to support the fighters of Palestine who were trying to liberate Masjid al Aqsa from Zionist acts of terror. He said that persistent attempts were made to destroy al Aqsa since the right-wing political group came to power in Israel in 1967.

Jamaat-e-Islami Central Council member Abdussalam Ahmed inaugurated the rally. He said a collective of racists were engaged in the genocide taking place in Palestine. India too is part of that collective and the world should speak up against it, he said.

Angered by the former Hamas leader's address, the BJP said the ruling party in Kerala was trying to glorify Hamas under the guise of 'Save Palestine' slogan. It said Hamas was a terror group and any connection with it or support to it should be condemned.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe; with lightning at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.3	21.6	Kozhikode	—	34.9	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	36.6	20.0	Kurnool	—	34.2	23.1
Aizawl	—	29.2	16.5	Lucknow	—	32.6	16.5
Allahabad	—	32.4	16.5	Madurai	—	34.2	24.6
Bengaluru	—	29.8	20.7	Mangaluru	—	33.2	25.0
Bhopal	—	32.8	14.7	Mumbai	—	36.4	21.6
Bhubaneswar	—	32.2	20.2	Mysuru	—	33.0	20.6
Chandigarh	—	31.5	16.6	New Delhi	—	32.5	14.3
Chennai	0.4	33.3	26.0	Patna	—	33.2	20.0
Coimbatore	—	33.0	24.4	Port Blair	—	32.2	25.5
Dehradun	—	28.6	13.7	Puducherry	—	34.0	25.0
Gangtok	—	19.9	12.2	Pune	—	31.7	16.3
Goa	—	34.5	21.4	Raipur	—	32.2	18.4
Guwahati	—	32.2	20.0	Ranchi	—	29.6	15.9
Hubballi	—	34.0	23.0	Shillong	—	21.1	10.8
Hyderabad	—	32.7	18.2	Shimla	—	23.2	13.0
Imphal	—	28.6	15.3	Srinagar	—	22.0	3.7
Jaipur	—	30.6	20.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.4	25.2
Kochi	8	31.4	25.2	Tiruchi	—	34.1	24.4
Kohima	—	18.2	12.1	Vijayawada	—	32.4	25.2
Kolkata	—	31.3	22.6	Visakhapatnam	—	33.0	26.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	10	4	24	258	198	
Bengaluru	6	11	52	81	85	
Chennai	5	120	21	15	29	
Delhi	23	28	47	375	409	
Hyderabad	9	8	26	200	150	
Kolkata	48	51	39	200	137	
Lucknow	4	50	26	235	178	
Mumbai	24	218	32	233	232	
Pune	113	171	107	201	124	
Visakhapatnam	9	37	45	202	147	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hanumangarh, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 346 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Silchar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

MGNREGS ceiling is no worry for tribal families in Kerala

S.R. Praveen
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In an uneven plot of land nestled between green carpeted hills at Kochukilikkodu in Vithura panchayat in rural Thiruvananthapuram, around 20 workers are digging a farm pond.

At this time of the year, in late October, these workers who get much of their employment through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have all crossed 100 days of their stipulated work limit, while a few are nearing 200 days.

Workers digging a pond at Kochukilikkodu in Kerala. S.R. PRAVEEN

Safety net

Tribal Plus, the Kerala government's initiative launched in 2018 to provide an extra 100 days of guaranteed employment to the tribal population, has enabled this situation, making it the only State to provide work beyond the stipulated 100 days to a section of the population.

"Earlier, we used to exhaust the allotted 100 days of work under the MGNREGS in the first few months of the year, making it hard for us after that. But, after Tribal Plus was implemented, we have enough money in our hand through the year. Women here now have sufficient money to take care of their children's education or for medical needs, although the savings may not be big," says Padmini Madhavan Kani.

In 2022-23, as many as 29,083 Scheduled Tribe families benefited from Tribal Plus across Kerala, as per the data from the State's MGNREGS Mission.

It all began in 2017 as a pilot project implemented by the Local Self-Government department with funds from the Scheduled Tribes Development Department in Palakkad district's Attappady tribal block, one of the most economically backward districts of Kerala.

"Attappady Plus showed us the potential of this programme, as work participation among tribal families as well as their average annual income increased. So, the next year, it was expanded across the State," says P. Balachandran, Programme Officer, MGNREGS State Mission.

Leopard on Tirumala footpath, warns TTD

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams has appealed to devotees to be cautious while trekking Alipiri-Tirumala footpath as the movement of a leopard and a wild bear was recorded in the trap cameras set up along the route.

The movement of wild animals was noticed along the stretch between Sri Anjaneya Swamy idol and Narasimha Swamy temple on the footpath during the past four days, and hence the TTD exhorted the pilgrims to move in groups.

A six-year-old girl was mauled to death reportedly by a leopard late on August 12 evening. Between June and October, four leopards have been captured from the hills and released in the Seshachalam forest range.

T.N. sanctions prosecution of Annamalai for hate speech

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has accorded sanction to prosecute BJP State president K. Annamalai for his "hate speech" against a "Christian Missionary NGO", based on a legal opinion from the State Public Prosecutor (SPP) of the Madras High Court.

According to a government order (G.O.), the legal opinion was sought based on a petition filed by an activist, V. Piyush, in the Judicial Magistrate Court No. 4 of Salem and petitions that were sent by him to Home Secretary, Director-General of Police, and Commissioner of Police (Salem) last year against Mr. Annamalai and Rajavel Nagarajan from the YouTube channel *Pesu Thamizha Pesu*.

Mr. Piyush told *The Hindu* that his petition was based on an interview, which Mr. Annamalai had given to the Youtube channel, in which the BJP leader had reportedly made unsubstantiated claims that Christian missionaries were behind the case that led to Supreme Court imposing restrictions on bursting of firecrackers during Deepavali. Mr. Annamalai had painted a picture of the missionaries as though they were conspiring to attack the Hindu festival, Mr. Piyush contended.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E-RD 161 GRC 2023 **Date:04-10-2023**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the report of the Director General of Police, CID Special Units and Economic Offenses, Bengaluru and after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that S S Golden Life Ltd., are involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that S S Golden Life Ltd., and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of S S Golden Life Ltd., and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of the S S Golden Life Ltd.,

And whereas, now the Government after considering the report of the Special officer and Competent Authority IMA and other Scams and Competent Authority, S S Golden Life Ltd., and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong to S S Golden Life Ltd.,

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches immovable properties as specified in the Annexure to this order believed to have been acquired by the S S Golden Life Ltd., either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the S S Golden Life Ltd., and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishment, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishment is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the aforesaid immovable properties from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forthwith vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

Annexure-1

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.	ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ವಿವರ (ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ)	ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ಮಾಲೀಕರು	ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ವಿವರ	ಖರೀದಿ ದರ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಷರಾ
1	ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಗೋಕಾಕ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಗೋಕಾಕ್ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ದುರದುಂಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸ.ನಂ. 3/*/1B ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ: 0–00–06 **ಚಕ್ಕು ಬಂದಿ ವಿವರ:** ಪೂರ್ವ:– ಪ್ಲಾಟ್ ಸಂ. 79 ಜಾಗಾ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ– ಪ್ಲಾಟ್ ಸಂ. 76 ಜಾಗಾ ಉತ್ತರ– ರಸ್ತೆ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ– ರಸ್ತೆ	ಖೋತಾ ತಾತ್ಯಾಸಾಬ ಶ್ರೀಪಾಲ	ದಸ್ತ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:2501/92–93, ದಿ:30.11.1992 (ಶೇಜ ನಂ: 4066/92–93, ದಿ: 30.11.1992)	7,000/–	–	ಕಂಪನಿಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ
2	ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಗೋಕಾಕ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಗೋಕಾಕ್ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ದುರದುಂಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸ.ನಂ. 3/*/1A/1+2 ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ: 0–08, 0–01 **ಚಕ್ಕು ಬಂದಿ ವಿವರ:** ಪೂರ್ವ:– ಅಣ್ಣಪ್ಪಾ ಭೀಮಪ್ಪ ಮಾಲದಿನ್ನಿ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ– ರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ತೇರದಾಳ ಉತ್ತರ–ಧರಣೇಂದ್ರ ಕಾಶೀನಾಥ ಗೊಂಗಡೆ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ– ರಸ್ತೆ	ಖೋತಾ ತಾತ್ಯಾಸಾಬ ಶ್ರೀಪಾಲ	ದಸ್ತ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:1603/93–94, ದಿ:30.10.1991 (ಶೇಜ ನಂ: 1248/92–93, ದಿ: 30.11.1991)	8,000/–	–	ಕಂಪನಿಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ
3	ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಗೋಕಾಕ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಗೋಕಾಕ್ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ದುರದುಂಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸ.ನಂ. 3/*/1A/1+2 ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ: 0–01, 0–08 **ಚಕ್ಕು ಬಂದಿ ವಿವರ:** ಪೂರ್ವ:– ಸದರಿ ನಂಬರ್ ಪೈಕಿ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ– ರಸ್ತೆ ಉತ್ತರ–ತೋಟದ ಮನೆ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ– ಬಾಬು ನೇಮಣ್ಣಾ ಚೂಡಪ್ಪಗೋಳ ಇವರ ಜಮೀನು	ಖೋತಾ ತಾತ್ಯಾಸಾಬ ಶ್ರೀಪಾಲ	ದಸ್ತ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:1757/91–92, ದಿ:10.09.1991 (ಶೇಜ ನಂ: 2737/91–92, ದಿ: 09.09.1991)	1,500/–	–	ಕಂಪನಿಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ

Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/JA/1873/2023-24

From Page One

Centre defends UNGA abstention

However, it did not specifically refer to the terror attacks by Hamas earlier this month that left more than 1,400 Israelis dead and 229 taken hostage.

In three weeks of retaliatory strikes by Israeli Defence Forces, the Health Ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza has estimated that at least 7,700 Palestinians have been killed, around half of which are children.

In the EoV delivered by India's Deputy Permanent Representative Yojana Patel, India had called for condemnation of the attacks and for the immediate and unconditional release of hostages.

"Terrorism is a malignancy and knows no borders, nationality, or race. The world should not buy into any justification of terror acts," Ms. Patel said, before addressing the death toll from the IDF bombardment of Gaza.

"Casualties in the ongoing conflict in Gaza are a telling, serious, and continuing concern. Civilians, especially women and children are paying with their lives," she said, referring to the aid efforts to help Palestinians who have been evacuated from north Gaza to the south, which India is also a part of.

Significantly, in its own EoV, India did not name Hamas directly either. India had however backed an earlier amendment proposed by Canada to add a paragraph that would "unequivocally reject and condemn the terrorist attacks by Hamas that took place in Israel starting on 7 October 2023", and call for hostages to be released. The amendment was not approved as only 88 countries, less than the two-thirds required, voted for it.

Opposition slams decision

India's vote, that differed from a previous vote in favour of a UNGA resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza in 2018 and other similar votes in the past, was criticised by Opposition parties who accused the government of "refusing to take a stand".

"This is a humanitarian issue, not a political one," said AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, pointing out that India's abstention stood "alone".

"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind", said Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi.

Government sources, however, said that India had stressed its "consistent stand on Palestine", saying in the EoV that India supports a negotiated two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine issue.

(With inputs from Sandeep Phukan)

Israel expands ground war, hits Hamas tunnels

It said warplanes bombed dozens of Hamas tunnels and bunkers.

"The forces are still on the ground and are continuing the war," said the army spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, indicating that the next stage has begun in what is expected to evolve into an all-out ground offensive in northern Gaza.

The Palestinian death toll in Gaza on Saturday rose to just over 7,700 people since October 7, with 377 deaths reported since late Friday, according to the territory's Health Ministry. A majority of those killed have been women and minors, the Ministry said.

'Release 12 fishermen detained in Maldives'

"A piece of net got entangled in the propeller and boat just drifted away due to the current. Despite being detained on October 23, the news was reported only on Friday. The fishermen who were detained in the Thinadhoo island in Maldives managed to reach call back home from a mobile phone only then."

On Friday, Thoothukudi MP K. Kanimozhi and Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai had separately written to Mr. Jaishankar, seeking his intervention to secure the release of the fishermen.

BSF lodges protest with Pakistan Rangers over ceasefire violation

One BSF jawan and a woman sustained minor injuries in the unprovoked firing, it says; on the killing of five terrorists in Machil sector of Kupwara, DGP says it showed 'the enemy continues its attempts to disrupt the peace in Jammu & Kashmir'

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU/SRINAGAR

The Border Security Force (BSF) lodged a strong protest with the Pakistan Rangers on Saturday over a recent firing that lasted for eight hours along the International Border (IB) in the Arnia sector of Jammu. Officials said the BSF formally raised the recent ceasefire violation with its counterparts on official channels.

The recent "unprovoked" ceasefire violation from Pakistan Rangers began on Thursday and ended on Friday morning. One BSF jawan and a woman sustained minor injuries in the firing and shelling.

A BSF spokesman said a "wing commander-commandant level flag meeting" was held between the BSF and the Pakistan Rangers at the Border Outpost Octroi.

"The BSF delegation lodged a strong protest to Pakistan Rangers for unprovoked firing in Arnia area in the night intervening 26/27 Oct 2023. The meeting ended in a cordial atmosphere to maintain peace and tranquillity on the International Border," the central force said.

Caught in crossfire: A resident being treated for injuries at a government hospital in Jammu on Saturday after unprovoked firing by Pakistan Rangers along the International Border in J&K. PTI

This is the second time since October 17 that Pakistan Rangers opened fire on the IB and targeted BSF positions. Two BSF jawans were injured on October 17.

'Zero terrorism'

The outgoing Director-General of Police (DGP) of Jammu & Kashmir, Dilbag Singh, on Saturday said the graph of terrorism in J&K was at a record low.

"The word 'zero' has become a positive indicator, shedding off the negativity in J&K during the past five years. There have been zero collateral damage, zero law-and-order incidents, and zero civilian casualties during the period," Mr. Singh, who is retiring on October 31, said at a police function.

Mr. Singh said three terror incidents were reported in Anantnag district in south Kashmir this year. "Thirty-six police stations showed a 100% terror-free record," he said.

Referring to the killing of five terrorists in Machil sector in Kupwara, he said it showed "the enemy continues its attempts to disrupt the peace in J&K". "Our border grid is strong and we will ensure all bids are foiled on the Line of Control. Police and security forces are working in perfect synergy to wipe out terrorism," Mr. Singh said.

He said an operation for capacity building had been launched this year to provide 43 police stations with the latest weaponry and anti-terror teams. "In the first phase, we covered 21 police stations. Teams have been launched for the remaining 22 police stations. These police stations are being covered under zero terror plan," Mr. Singh said.

The DGP said command vehicles were being deputed to the police stations and equipped with modern gadgets, "which will be extremely useful during different anti-insurgency operations".

"Providing additional safety gear would surely increase the efficiency and capabilities of our dedicated force working on the anti-terror front," he said.

Latest weaponry

He said the latest weaponry and drones had been made available for personnel deployed in the special squads to tackle terror incidents. "With the deputation of these squads, the area domination would be further strengthened," Mr. Singh said.

He said that it had been decided earlier this year to work out a "zero terror plan", and 43 police stations where terror crimes were reportedly high were identified and subsequently strengthened to fight terror crimes.

Mr. Singh said bandh calls and stone-throwing had "vanished completely". "The number of misguided youth joining terror ranks has also come down significantly," he said.

Supreme Court verdict on Sisodia's bail tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and S.V.N. Bhatti is scheduled to deliver its judgment on a plea for bail filed by former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who is facing money laundering charges in the liquor policy scam case, on Monday.

The judgment is authored by Justice Khanna, who while reserving the case for verdict on October 17 had asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) how an offence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) would be made out in the absence of a bribery charge against Mr. Sisodia, represented by senior advocate A.M. Singhvi.

"If the charge of a bribe is not part of the predicate offence, it may be difficult for you to prove a case under the PMLA. If you had said bribe of ₹2.2 crore was paid for tweaking the policy, yes. But you cannot create a predicate offence in your PMLA case. We cannot go on an assumption," Justice Khanna had addressed Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju.

Mr. Sisodia was arrested on February 26 for alleged corruption in the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.

Ethics panel sets Nov. 2 for hearing Mahua in cash-for-query allegation

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha on Saturday asked Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra to appear before it on November 2 for a hearing into the cash-for-query scam. The panel ruled out any further extension.

Earlier, the committee had asked her to appear before it on October 31, but she expressed her inability to do so, citing prior engagements. Ms. Moitra, in a letter, had said that she was looking forward to depose and the committee could choose any date after November 5.

On Saturday, the committee, headed by BJP MP Vinod Kumar Sonkar, told Ms. Moitra that it would not entertain any further request for extension for any reason whatsoever "keeping in view the seriousness of the matter, having implications on the dignity of Parliament as well as its Members".

Mahua Moitra

The ethics panel is probing BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's allegations that Ms. Moitra accepted bribes and favours for asking questions in the Lok Sabha at the behest of businessman Darshan Hiranandani.

On Thursday, Mr. Dubey and another complainant, advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, appeared before the committee and gave "oral" evidence against the Trinamool member.

Ms. Moitra has denied the allegation of any "*quid pro quo*", but in a media interview admitted to sharing her password and login ID of the parliamentary portal with Mr. Hiranandani.

On Friday, in a letter to the Chairman of the panel, Ms. Moitra asked for not only "a fair hearing against the false, malicious and defamatory accusations levelled by Shri Dubey and Shri Dehadrai" but also a chance to cross-examine Mr. Hiranandani.

"I wish to place on record that any enquiry without the oral evidence of Shri Hiranandani will be incomplete, unfair and akin to holding a proverbial 'kangaroo court' and that he too will need to be called to depose before the Committee before it prepares its final report," she had said.

Support from Congress

While the Trinamool Congress has distanced itself from the controversy, Congress leaders have come out in her support.

"I am not getting into the issue of corruption. That is a separate matter. But as a public representation, if I get any information, it is incumbent upon me to raise it for the people," Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury told *The Hindu*.

"The issue is whether the questions she asked are valid or not. There is no need to go for source of of those questions. As a colleague, I support her," Mr. Chowdhury added.

Supporting Ms. Moitra's demand for cross-examination of her businessman friend, Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Vivek Tankha, in a post on X, said, "Parliamentarian @MahuaMoitra is entitled in law to quiz Dubai-based businessman Darshan Hiranandani, if Ethics Committee is using his affidavit statement ag[ainst] her or else will be travesty of law & natural justice".

CJI to head five-judge Bench that will hear electoral bonds case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Saturday named the five judges on the Constitution Bench scheduled to hear petitions challenging the legality of the electoral bonds scheme, which facilitates anonymous donations to political parties, from October 31.

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud will head the Bench with Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B.R. Gavai, J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra serving as associate judges.

Hanging fire

The Chief Justice had made a brief mention orally on October 16 about the reference of the case to a Constitution Bench, which would convene after the Dasara holidays on October 31. The case has been pending in the top court for over eight years now.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, for petitioner NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, had pressed the court to hear the electoral bonds issue before the general elections in 2024.

The court has agreed to the petitioners' prayer calling for focus primarily on two issues concerning the electoral bonds scheme – the legalisation of anonymous donations to political parties and the violation of citizens' right to information about the funding of political parties, promoting corruption. The two issues concern violation of Articles 19, 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

The five-judge Bench may not wade into the legal question concerning the passage of the electoral bonds scheme as a Money Bill. It may, instead, wait for a seven-judge Bench to deliver an authoritative pronouncement on "when a Bill could be designated a Money Bill".

All set for *businessline Cerebration Quiz* finale

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The grand finale of the 20th edition of the *businessline Cerebration Quiz* 2023 will take place at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in Mumbai on Sunday. The event, presented by *JK Tyre Ranger Series* in partnership with the BSE, is one of India's premier corporate quiz championships.

Over 6,000 participants joined the initial online shortlisting round, and the event aimed to select the top six contenders from six cities: Chennai, Bengaluru, Kochi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Delhi.

The contestants in the grand finale include Sethu Madhavan from Capgemini, Abhinav Dhar from TMIPL, R. Jayakanthan from TCS, Naveen Kumar from Sai Mitra Constructions, Siddharth Sankar Rout from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), and Rohan Khanna from Barclays.

The event is open to business professionals, corporate executives, MBA candidates, and students from leading Indian B-schools. Participants in the quiz have the chance to win up to ₹1.5 lakh in prize money. The first prize is ₹75,000, the second prize is ₹50,000, and the third is ₹25,000.

Quiz enthusiasts can watch the live-streaming of the grand finale from 11 a.m. by visiting https://bit.ly/BLQFN23.

The associate partners include SBI, *Greyon Cosmetics*, and *Parker Pens*. *News X* will be the TV partner.

Modi will be back for third term with full majority: Rajnath

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The country's citizens have full faith in the Prime Minister's leadership, says Defence Minister

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday expressed full confidence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would return back to power with a clear majority for a third straight term in the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

"The citizens of our country have full faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi*ji* and not just me but several election analysts also accepted this fact that he [PM Modi] is coming back with a clear majority in the 2024 parliamentary election," Mr. Singh, who is on a two-day visit to his parliamentary constituency Lucknow, told reporters.

The senior BJP leader's statement was in response to a question asked by reporters about the newly formed India National Democratic Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc and how serious is the challenge posed by the alliance in the general election.

Quota activist asks Marathas to go on a fast unto death

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Despite his declining health, Maratha quota campaigner Manoj Jarange Patil escalated his protest by urging community members to initiate a fast unto death across all villages in Maharashtra starting from Sunday.

The Maratha activist fervently appealed to the State government, stressing the gravity of the agitation and the urgent need for reservation in education and government jobs.

Mr. Jarange Patil, whose indefinite hunger strike in Antarwali Sarati village of Jalna district entered its fourth day, urged members of the Maratha community not to resort to extreme steps for the sake of reservation.

Manoj Jarange Patil

"We are going to win... so, the youth do not have to end their lives," Mr. Jarange Patil said, advising the community to keep political leaders at bay and abstain from engaging with them during the protest.

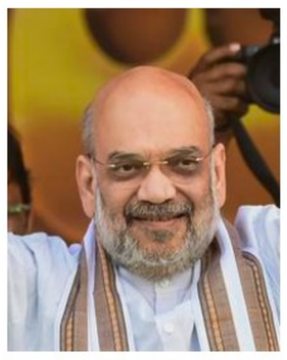
The 40-year-old new poster boy of Maratha agitation declined any treatment and refused to be examined by doctors after top officials from Jalna district met him to enquire about his health. Mr. Jarange Patil said he wanted to prioritise the cause of Maratha quota over his health concerns. "The problems being faced by our children are far more significant than my physical suffering."

Meanwhile, Nationalist Congress Party MLA Rohit Pawar suspended his *Yuva Sangharsh Yatra* in support of Mr. Jarange Patil. He said he did not wish to disturb peace in the State.

Amit Shah targets Rahul and Priyanka

In a veiled swipe at Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said a brother and sister whose "origins are in Italy" won't be able to understand the development done by the Narendra Modi government. Addressing a public meeting at Junnardeo in Chhindwara district of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Shah said the people of India could clearly understand the development, and referred to the construction of the Ram temple, the dilution of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and others.

Mr. Shah said the people of M.P. would celebrate multiple Deepavalis this year. The people will celebrate the Deepavali of the BJP's victory in Madhya Pradesh elections and the consecration of Lord Ram Lalla in Ayodhya, he said.



Amit Shah was addressing a public meeting in Chhindwara district of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh. PTI

Cong. promises safeguards for land, forests

The Congress on October 28 promised that if it forms the government in Mizoram it would pass a new Bill in the very first session of the new Assembly guaranteeing the protection of land, forests and rights of the tribal people of the State. In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the Modi government had "bulldozed" amendments to the Forest Conservation Act during the Monsoon Session of Parliament that evoked tremendous opposition and outrage across the country, even more so in the northeast.

"As forests are on the Concurrent List, this Bill will be sent to the President of India for assent under provision of Article 254(2)," he said.

Polling for the 40-member Mizoram Assembly will be held on November 7. The counting will take place on December 3.

> ...politics of polarisation started in the last five years... Chhattisgarh is suffering from the problem created by the Baghel government
>
> **RAMAN SINGH**
> Chhattisgarh BJP leader

Modi cancels poll campaign trip to Mizoram

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cancelled his planned campaign trip to Mamit in Mizoram on Monday, a senior BJP leader said. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will fill in for Mr. Modi, but his date of campaigning is yet to be decided, State BJP media convener Johny Lalthanpuia said. PTI

> This election is not about forming a government. It is because Rajasthan's Congress government has given a new model of governance under CM Ashok Gehlot
>
> **MOHAN PRAKASH**
> Congress leader

Happier times: Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Kamal Nath. FILE PHOTO

Ahead of M.P. polls, BJP and Cong. spar over Ram temple

Press Trust of India
BHOPAL

A war of words has erupted in Madhya Pradesh after the Congress objected to the ruling BJP putting up hoardings taking credit for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

The BJP said the Congress was "pained over the construction of the Ram temple", while the Opposition party accused the former of "going astray from devotion to Lord Ram".

Earlier this week, the Indore unit of the Congress complained to the Election Commission of India (EC) that the BJP, in violation of the model code of conduct, used religious symbols during poll campaigning by showcasing the Ayodhya Ram temple and Mahakal Lok in Ujjain.

Sharing the Congress's complaint on their X handles, BJP leaders accused the party of being "anti-Ram".

BJP State chief V.D. Sharma said at a press conference on Saturday that the basic character of the Congress had been against "Lord Shri Ram, Hindutva and Sanatana Dharma".

The Congress is complaining to the EC against the hoardings of the Ram temple, which is the centre of faith not only in India but also in the world, Mr. Sharma said.

"They are saying that such hoardings should be removed... Congress is pained as to why the hoardings of Ram Mandir have been put up... They are pained by the construction of Ram temple," he said.

Mr. Sharma said that the Ram temple is the centre of faith for 9.5 crore people of the State.

"You [Congress] should also put up such hoardings. Who stopped you? Your leader [Kamal Nath] is saying that Ram temple is for all," he said, accusing the Congress of playing appeasement politics.

The BJP leader said that the Congress was pained because the consecration of the Ram temple will be held on January 22, 2024, in Ayodhya because of the "willpower" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Earlier on Friday, Mr. Nath had said that the Ram temple belonged to all. "Does the Ram temple belong to BJP? This temple belongs to the citizens of the country," Mr. Nath said.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the Congress used to submit an affidavit in the court denying the existence of Lord Ram and terming him "imaginary".

"After seeing the people's faith in Lord Ram, they [Congress] are becoming Ram *bhakt* [devotees of Lord Ram], reciting his 'bhajans' and Hanuman *Chalisa*," Mr. Chouhan told presspersons in Chhatarpur on Friday.

Randeep Surjewala, Congress general secretary in charge of Madhya Pradesh, on Saturday said that Ram was *Maryada Purushottam* and a symbol of love, devotion, faith and sacrifice.

"How can Lord Ram be a subject of politics? Can there be any party of Lord Shri Ram? Those who deviated from the path of devotion and whose intellect has also become corrupt should sit at the feet of Lord Ram to get some wisdom. Lord Shri Ram cannot be the subject of partisan politics," Mr. Surjewala said in reply to a question at a press conference in Bhopal. The polling for the 230 seats of Madhya Pradesh will be held on November 17.

'Zo unification' is a running theme in Mizoram; MNF makes it a promise

Falkland, in the Aizawl East-I Assembly constituency represented by Chief Minister Zoramthanga, has the largest concentration of more than 12,500 Kuki-Zo people displaced from clashes-hit Manipur; ruling party leaders say the protection and welfare of the ethnic group come first

IN FOCUS

Rahul Karmakar
AIZAWL

Teresa Manhau used to pray twice a day until May 3 when the fire of ethnic violence engulfed Sugnu Zoveng, her village on the boundary between Chandel and Kakching districts in Manipur.

She added a prayer specifically for the safety of her community as she and other Kuki-Zo people kept moving through the hills to reach Mizoram's capital, Aizawl, a fortnight later.

The 65-year-old has now added a fourth prayer – for the next Mizoram government to be as considerate as the current one headed by the Mizo National Front (MNF), but stronger to help them return home.

Elisabeth Vungkhanching, displaced from a Zo tribal village on the periphery of the Imphal Valley in Manipur dominated by the non-tribal Meitei people, has the same prayers on her lips.

"We have been made to feel at home in Mizoram but I cannot find peace until I return to our ancestral land. It has been almost five months since we left the home that was reduced to ashes," she said, the pain of being separated from her siblings and eight of her nine children writ large on her face.

Ms. Manhau and Ms. Vungkhanching are among more than 300 people belonging to 56 Kuki-Zo families displaced from Manipur living in a Mizoram government residential block at Falkland on the outskirts of Aizawl.

Falkland has the largest concentration of more than 12,500 people displaced from Manipur, most of whom living with relatives scattered across Mizoram. Falkland is in the Aizawl East-I Assembly constituency represented by Chief Minister Zoramthanga, also the president of the MNF.

The MNF's election manifesto promises the unification of the Zo communities such as the dominant Mizos of Mizoram, Kukis of Manipur, and Chins of Myanmar and Bangladesh. While the credo of cultural and political integration through "Zo unification" has struck a chord in Mizoram, it is seen as fanning secession in Manipur.

Finding refuge: Kuki-Zo people displaced from Manipur at a relief camp in Falkland on the outskirts of Aizawl. RAHUL KARMAKAR

"We are grateful to the Mizoram government, particularly the Chief Minister, for providing us shelter and taking up our cause. We hope and pray that the next government by whichever party or coalition is sympathetic to us and helps us go back to where we belong," John Zo, a Manipur-displaced church elder and Falkland camp leader, said.

The Zo issue has been a part of the campaign of Mr. Zoramthanga, whose rivals for the Aizawl East-I seat are Lalthansanga of the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), Lalsanglura Ralte of the Congress, and Lalruatfeli Hlawndo, an Independent.

'Political mileage'

"The protection and welfare of the Zo people come first for the MNF," a local campaign manager of the Chief Minister said, insisting no other political party has been as vocal as the MNF about the people displaced from Manipur.

ZPM president Lalduhoma, a former IPS officer, said the MNF was trying to capitalise on the Manipur violence to cover up for five years of failing the people of Mizoram. "All political parties have been equally sensitive about the displaced people but not all are trying to derive political mileage from their misery," he said.

Leaders of the Congress and the BJP, the two other major parties vying for berths in the 40-member Assembly, said no political party can afford to be indifferent to the cause of the Zo people who have taken refuge in Mizoram "although they are voters in Manipur". The MNF, ZPM, and Congress are contesting 40 seats each. The BJP has fielded candidates for 23 seats. The Aam Aadmi Party is the only other party in the fray, contesting four seats.

Six Rajasthan Cong. leaders cross the fence to BJP

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Former Jaipur Mayor Jyoti Khandelwal and former MLAs Chandrashekhar Baid and Nandlal Poonia were among six Congress leaders who joined the Opposition BJP here on Saturday, ahead of the Rajasthan Assembly election. BJP State in-charge Arun Singh said the party was going to win the polls with a "historic margin".

Ms. Khandelwal, considered close to former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, was the Congress candidate from Jaipur in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. She said honest, dedicated party workers were sidelined in the Congress.

Others who joined the BJP from the Congress are Sanwarmal Maharia, Vice-Chairman, Rajasthan Heritage Promotion and Protection Authority; Congress Laxmangarh block president Jitendra Singh; Ravindra Singh Bhati, former students' union president at Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur; and Hari Singh Saharan, who had contested the Assembly polls twice as an Independent at Mandawa.

Former IPS officers Kesar Singh Shekhawat and Bhim Singh Bika joined the BJP, along with AAP leaders Jaipal Singh Mandota, Dharmendra Singh Rathore and Somendra Singh Chauhan.

In Chhattisgarh, Rahul does OBC outreach and offers a bundle of promises

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Free education in government institutions, an annual ₹4,000 assistance for those who collect tendu leaves and farm loan waiver are among the several promises made by former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Saturday in poll-bound Chhattisgarh, even as he kept his focus on the party's OBC outreach with the promise of a caste-based survey for the State.

Addressing election rallies in Bhanupratappur and Farsgaon in the Naxal-affected Bastar division, the Congress leader asked why is Prime Minister Narendra Modi scared of a caste census despite talking about Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in his speeches.

If the Congress is voted to power at the Centre, a countrywide caste census would be conducted and a caste survey would be done for the State, Mr. Gandhi said.

In his speech, the Congress leader attacked the BJP for "working" for a privileged few and projected his party as the one that worked for farmers, Dalits, labourers and Adivasis.

"We are going to take a major step for you which we call 'KG to PG'. From KG [kindergarten] to PG [post-graduation], free education will be provided for students in government institutions. They will not have to pay a single penny," he said.

Rahul Gandhi and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel being garlanded during a public meeting in Kanker on Saturday. PTI

Rahul Gandhi said an annual ₹4,000 assistance would be given to tendu leaf collectors

'Vanvasi, Adivasi'

In the tribal-dominated Bastar region, Mr. Gandhi said ₹4,000 a year would be given under the Rajiv Gandhi Protsahan Yojana to tendu leaf collectors. Pointing out that the BJP used the word 'vanvasi' in place of 'Adivasi' for tribal people, the Congress leader said its use was an attack on the culture, history and language of the tribes. He also mentioned the viral video of a BJP leader in Madhya Pradesh urinating on a tribal man.

Mr. Gandhi said that key promises made by his party ahead of the previous Assembly election had been fulfilled in Chhattisgarh. "We had promised to give ₹2,500 per quintal for paddy to farmers and now they are getting ₹2,640 per quintal as our intention is clear. After some period, it will become ₹3,000 per quintal," he said. While the Bhanupratappur constituency is in Kanker district, Farsgaon is a part of the Kondagaon constituency in neighbouring Kondagaon district. Both constituencies are among the 20 that will vote on November 7 in the first phase of the Chhattisgarh election. The second phase will be held on November 17.

During his speech at Bhanupratappur, the Congress leader briefly stopped and walked over to the corner of the stage, carrying a bottle of water, to enquire about someone who fainted.

RLP enters the fray in Rajasthan with first list of 10 candidates

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The Rashtriya Loktantrik Party on Saturday entered the fray in Rajasthan with the announcement of its first list of 10 candidates for the November 25 Assembly election. RLP convener and Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal will contest the Khinvsar seat, from which he resigned after being elected to the Lok Sabha in 2019.

The RLP released its list two days after entering into an alliance with the Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) led by Chandrashekhar Azad. Mr. Beniwal said the two parties would jointly wage a struggle to secure the rights of Dalits and backward and underprivileged people. The new alliance is likely to put up a fight in some 100 of the 200 Assembly constituencies.

RLP MLAs Pukhraj Garg and Indira Devi Bawari have been fielded from their constituencies, Bhopalgarh and Merta, respectively, while Khinvsar MLA Narayan Beniwal, younger brother of Mr. Hanuman Beniwal, has been dropped.

The junior Mr. Beniwal, who had won the Khinvsar seat in the Assembly bye-election in 2019, is likely to be fielded later in some other constituency. The party has given ticket to Rewat Ram Panwar from Kolayat, Lachharam Badrada from Parbatsar and Ajay Trivedi from Jodhpur city. All three had left Congress and joined the RLP a few weeks ago.

Hanuman Beniwal

Mr. Panwar, who was elected a Congress MLA in 1998, will be locked in a contest with two-time MLA and Minister of State for Power Bhanwar Singh Bhati, fielded by the Congress, at Kolayat in Bikaner district.

The RLP was a constituent of the National Democratic Alliance in the 2019 Lok Sabha election and Mr. Hanuman Beniwal won as an MP with the BJP's support. The RLP quit the NDA and withdrew its support to the government at the Centre in December 2020 after the passage of the controversial agriculture sector Bills in the Parliament.

Mr. Hanuman Beniwal had formed the RLP in 2018 with the support of Jats, who constitute a politically powerful community in more than a dozen Lok Sabha constituencies in the State.

INBRIEF

Mukesh Ambani gets death threat; police launch search

After an unknown person allegedly sent an email threatening to kill Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani, the Mumbai Police registered a case of extortion and criminal intimidation and began a probe. The email that Mr. Ambani received on Friday said that the industrialist would be shot dead if he failed to pay Rs 20 crore, the police said. A case was registered at the Gamdevi police station under Sections 387 (putting a person in fear of death or of grievous hurt in order to commit extortion) and 506(2) (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

Anant Nath elected president of Editors Guild of India

Anant Nath, editor of *The Caravan*, was on Saturday elected president of the Editors Guild of India. At its annual general meeting, the guild also elected Ruben Banerjee, former editor-in-chief of *Outlook*, and K.V. Prasad, former senior associate editor of *The Tribune*, as its general secretary and treasurer, respectively. Mr. Nath, who was the general secretary, succeeded Seema Mustafa as president. Mr. Prasad succeeds Shriram Pawar, editor of the Sakal Media Group, as the treasurer. The announcement was made by a three-member election committee comprising Rajdeep Sardesai, Vijay Naik and Kumkum Chadha. PTI

Seven of a family found dead at their home in Surat

Seven members of a family, three of them children, were found dead at their residence in Surat city of Gujarat on Saturday. The bodies of the deceased were found in the Adajan locality, the police said, adding that a note was also recovered from their house which says that the family was taking the extreme step out of financial distress. The police found that six persons died from consuming some poisonous substance, while one was found hanging. "A man, his wife, his parents, the couple's six-year-old son and two daughters were found dead," DCP (Zone-5) R.P. Barot said. (*Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies could seek help and counselling by calling the Gujarat helpline 104).* PTI

ED arrests Parabolic Drugs promoters in bank fraud case

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday arrested Parabolic Drugs Ltd. promoters Vineet Gupta and Pranav Gupta and a chartered accountant (CA) in an alleged money laundering investigation into a bank fraud case. The ED's money laundering probe is based on a case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in December 2021, in which Parabolic Drugs and 11 others have been accused of cheating a consortium of 12 banks to the tune of ₹1,626.74 crore. The Guptas are also named as accused. The chartered accountant has been identified as S.K. Bansal. They were arrested following searches at multiple locations in New Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana, and Mumbai.

SUDOKU

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3			9			7	6	
		6		2				9
	4			6		8		2
		1		3		5		
6		2		8			9	
2				5		9		
	8	3			4			5
			8		3			

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	4	6	1	7	5	9	2	3
3	1	9	4	2	6	8	7	5
7	5	2	8	3	9	6	4	1
4	7	1	2	5	8	3	9	6
2	6	5	3	9	4	7	1	8
9	8	3	6	1	7	2	5	4
5	2	4	7	6	3	1	8	9
1	3	8	9	4	2	5	6	7
6	9	7	5	8	1	4	3	2

WHO Southeast Asia members to meet to nominate its regional director, to discuss health issues

Session will discuss ways to rein in cardiovascular diseases, end neglected tropical diseases and ensure regional health security; the two candidates in the fray are Bangladesh nominee Saima Wazed and Nepal's Shambhu Prasad Acharya

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Health Ministers and senior officials from the Southeast Asia member countries of the World Health Organization will meet in New Delhi the coming week to deliberate on priority health issues and nominate the next WHO Regional Director for Southeast Asia.

The 76th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Southeast Asia, the annual governing body meeting of the WHO at the regional level, will be held from October 30 to November 2, according to an official communication. It added that WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and South-East Asia Regional Director Poonam Khetrapal Singh will be present.

Key topics

Accelerating prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases, ending neglected tropical diseases, and regional health security, are among the key issues to be discussed. A ministerial roundtable will be held on strengthening primary healthcare as a key element towards achieving universal health coverage, noted the regional office.

The WHO says since 2014, the Southeast region has eliminated polio and maternal and neonatal tetanus. SANDEEP SAXENA

"On Wednesday, the regional committee will vote to nominate the next WHO Regional Director for Southeast Asia. There are two candidates in the fray – Bangladesh nominee Saima Wazed and Nepal nominee Shambhu Prasad Acharya. The nomination will be submitted to the WHO Executive Board, which will meet from January 22 to 27, 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland. The newly appointed Regional Director will assume office on February 1 for a five-year term," said a senior WHO South-East Asia official.

She added that at the regional committee, countries will be felicitated for public health achievements, many of them triggered by the focused approach towards the regional flagship priorities.

Milestones reached

Giving an overview of the health issues in the region, the WHO office notes that this area is home to more than two billion people, and since 2014, the region has eliminated polio and maternal and neonatal tetanus. Four countries – Bhutan, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste – have eliminated measles and rubella, one of the eight flagship priorities.

Prioritising elimination of neglected tropical diseases, four countries – tye Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Bangladesh – have eliminated lymphatic filariasis, while Nepal and Myanmar eliminated trachoma, and India was verified yaws-free. Additionally, Sri Lanka and the Maldives eliminated malaria, while Thailand, the Maldives and Sri Lanka eliminated mother-to-child transmission of syphilis and HIV. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Thailand achieved hepatitis B control.

Focusing on accelerating reduction of maternal, neonatal and under-5 mortality, the region recorded a 68.5% reduction in maternal mortality between 2000 and 2020, a 45% reduction in under-5 mortality and a 39% reduction in neonatal mortality during the period. Five countries – South Korea, Indonesia, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand – have achieved 2030 SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) targets of reducing under-5 mortality and neonatal mortality. "Prone to health emergencies, the region had been investing in strengthening preparedness and response capacities since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that hit multiple countries in the region and killed over 2,00,000 people. Countries have been enhancing International Health Regulation (2005) core capacities. The lessons from COVID-19 pandemic are now guiding the Regional Strategic Roadmap on Health Security and Health System Resilience for Emergencies 2023-2027," said Dr. Khetrapal.

Tackling BP, diabetes

She said the region is accelerating control of cardiovascular diseases with a target to place 100 million people with hypertension and/or diabetes on protocol-based management by 2025. "We are committed to accelerating universal health coverage. With the focus on human resources for health and essential medicines, the availability of doctors, nurses and midwives has increased by over 30.6% since 2014. Countries in the region have been taking several initiatives to make universal health coverage a reality," she added.

MGNREGS sees 7.5% dip in active workforce

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a significant contraction in the workforce under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), a data analysis by LibTech India – a consortium of academics and activists – for April-September reveals a 7.5% reduction in the number of active workers, from 15.49 crore in the previous fiscal year to 14.33 crore, as per the data available till October 6.

The LibTech's MGNREGS tracker for April-September 2023 provides a comparative analysis of data from preceding financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23 during the same time frame, using the data available with the Rural Development Ministry.

This statistics, read along with a net deletion of 80 lakh workers in the ongoing financial year, paints a bleak picture for the programme. "These statistics indicate a significant contraction in the MGNREGS workforce, emphasising the need for a comprehensive analysis to identify the factors contributing to this decline and to formulate strategies for revitalising the programme's participation," the report states.

While the MGNREGS workforce is shrinking, there is an increased demand for work under the scheme.

Bangladesh is building memorial to honour Indian heroes of 1971 war

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

A memorial to honour the Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971 at Ashuganj in Bangladesh is in the advanced stages of completion. It will have the names of around 1,600 Indian soldiers inscribed on it.

It is expected to be ready by December and the effort is to have it inaugurated by Prime Minister of the two Prime Ministers in March or April, said A.K.M. Mozammel Haque, Bangladesh Minister for Liberation War Affairs.

This will be the first memorial in Bangladesh to exclusively honour Indian soldiers from the 1971 war. The foundation stone for the memorial at Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in March 2021.

A model of a memorial building that Bangladesh is making for Indian soldiers who were part of the 1971 war. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The idea is by December it will be finished. All the names of the Indian soldiers martyred will be engraved so that everybody can know who are these people who sacrificed for our emancipation, for our liberation," Mr. Haque had said. "We will try to invite both the Prime Ministers," he said noting there are elections in both countries. "That is why we are thinking by March or April we will try to inaugurate it, by both the Prime Ministers," he stated.

Major Chandrakant Singh, VrC, a 1971 war veteran and author of several books on the war, introduced Mr. Haque as the first Bangladeshi who attacked the Pakistan Army in 1971. "I feel happy and proud to have been associated with this project," he told *The Hindu*.

Centre imposes $800 a tonne minimum export price on onion

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government on Saturday imposed a minimum export price (MEP) of $800 per tonne on onion exports till December 31 to increase the availability of the vegetable in the domestic market.

The decision will come into effect from Sunday. Besides, the government has also announced the procurement of additional 2 lakh tonnes of onion for the buffer, over and above the 5 lakh tonnes already procured.

"Exports of onions is free. MEP of $800 FOB (free on board) per tonne is imposed till December 31, 2023," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said.

An official statement said that the step will help in maintaining sufficient availability of onion to domestic consumers at affordable prices as the quantity of stored Rabi 2023 onion is declining. The $800 per tonne MEP translates into about ₹67 per kg.

"Till date about 1.7 lakh metric tonnes of onion has been disposed from the buffer. The continuous procurement and disposal of onion from the buffer are undertaken," it said.

'Overhaul of criminal laws a much-needed reform'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge Justice Rajesh Bindal on Saturday said the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill (BSB), 2023, which seeks to replace the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), Indian Penal Code (IPC), and Indian Evidence Act, 1872, were a much-needed change for the criminal justice system in the country.

He was speaking at the Legal Conclave organised by Adhivakta Parishad, a unit of the Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad (a pan-India lawyers organisation) in Delhi.

The event was attended by about 1,000 people, including lawyers, senior advocates, academics, judicial officers, and law students.

The Centre introduced the three Bills on August 11, 2023. with the goal of overhauling the country's criminal laws.

'Drafted by Macaulay'

Justice Bindal said the IPC was drafted by Lord Macaulay based on the draft prepared by the first Law Commission of India and enacted in 1860. "So the change is taking place after 163 years. In this period, much water has flown under the bridge. We became Independent, and there have been so many changes after Independence," Justice Bindal said.

He also pointed out that society itself had evolved, with both the rights of the accused and the victim of importance. This new perspective needed a new base to build on. "If any major changes have to be brought about in any Act, it is not practically possible to do it merely by bringing in amendments," Justice Bindal said.

At the event, G.S. Bajpai, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University Delhi, said, "For the first time, such a challenging task has been undertaken – to review all three major criminal laws." These laws were produced in the pre-constitutional era, now, "everything has to be checked on the touchstone of the Constitution."

Justice Rajesh Bindal speaking at the Legal Conclave organised by Adhivakta Parishad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> So the change is taking place after 163 years. In this period, much water has flown under the bridge. We became Independent in 1947, and there have been so many changes after Independence of the country
>
> **JUSTICE RAJESH BINDAL**
> Supreme Court judge

Answer to woes

Professor Bajpai said the major concerns of criminal justice today are pendency, overcrowding of jails, low conviction rate, lack of integration of technology, delayed investigation, and procedural complexities.

"We have tried to address all these issues under the BNSS," he said.

He said there will be a major push to integrate technology in criminal investigation and the subsequent proceedings. Technology will bring in greater transparency and accountability in the system.

He said that under the present laws, not much focus is given to the victims. "If you look at courtrooms today, we have designated space for lawyers, witnesses, or accused, but not for the victim."

Delhi High Court judge Justice C. Hari Shankar said, "Whenever there is new legislation, its pluses and minuses are worked out when it is implemented. However, there can be no doubt on the fact that these Bills are a necessity. It is extremely surprising that it has taken 75 years for these Bills to come."

Opposition must stay united for LS polls: Pawar

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Conceding that there are differences of opinion among the Opposition over putting up a united front in the Assembly elections in some States, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday said that they all must fight the upcoming Lok Sabha election together.

Stating that the Bharatiya Janata Party does not have governments in a majority of States, including Kerala and Punjab, he said that the trends of the recent Assembly elections suggest the situation is favourable for the Opposition. However, the leader said he had no authentic information to comment on whether there would be a change at the national level.

COLOMBO

India to provide additional funding for training of Sri Lankan military

REUTERS

India will provide additional funding of LKR 23 million (around ₹58,75,900) for the training of Sri Lankan Armed Forces, the Indian High Commission here has said. This was conveyed to Sri Lanka by acting Indian High Commissioner Satyanjal Pandey when he met a senior local military delegation here on Friday. PTI

PARIS

Starlink Internet for 'recognised' organisations in Gaza, says Musk

AFP

Elon Musk said that his Starlink satellite service would support Internet access for "internationally recognised aid organisations in Gaza," which have faced a telecommunications blackout. Starlink is a network of satellites in low Earth orbit that can provide Internet to remote locations, or areas with communications disabled. AFP

TAIPEI

Taiwan celebrates LGBTQ Pride after adoption rights milestone

REUTERS

Tens of thousands took part in Asia's largest Pride parade in Taiwan's capital, months after adoption rights were extended to same-sex couples. Taiwan was the first place in Asia to legalise marriage equality in 2019. In May, the country's Parliament passed an amendment allowing gay couples to jointly adopt children. AFP

TEHRAN

Iranian teen injured on Metro while not wearing headscarf dead

AP

An Iranian teenage girl injured weeks ago in a mysterious incident on Tehran's Metro while not wearing a headscarf has died. Armita Geravand's death comes after her being in a coma for weeks and after the one-year anniversary of the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini which sparked nationwide protests at the time. AP

U.S. is not drawing red lines for Israel: White House

Reuters
WASHINGTON

The U.S. is not trying to dictate limits for Israel, the White House said, as the Israelis expanded their military operation in Gaza against Hamas militants.

The fresh military onslaught by Israel comes as the U.S. scrambles to arrange a humanitarian pause for deliveries of fuel and relief aid to Gaza civilians. How the expanded ground operation will impact efforts toward a pause was unclear.

White House national security spokesperson John Kirby would not comment on the Israeli ground operation. But he said Washington supported Israel's right to defend itself after Hamas militants killed 1,400 people in southern Israel on October 7. "We're not drawing red lines for Israel," he said.

There is no safe place in Gaza, there is no way out, says UN

Israeli strikes have killed 7,703 people, mainly civilians, including more than 3,500 children, says Gaza's Health Ministry; UN warns of 'catastrophic consequences' if the ground attack goes on

Agence France-Presse
Associated Press
GENEVA

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk warned on Saturday there was the potential for thousands more civilians to die if Israel presses a major ground offensive in Gaza.

Israel's Army relentlessly hammered the territory on Saturday after fierce overnight bombardment that rescuers said destroyed hundreds of buildings three weeks into a war sparked by the deadliest attack in the country's history.

"Given the manner in which military operations have been conducted until now, in the context of the 56-year-old occupation, I am raising alarm about the possibly catastrophic consequences of large-scale ground operations in Gaza and the potential for thousands more civilians to die," Mr. Turk said.

Mounting agony: People mourn as they collect the bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli air raids in Gaza. GETTY IMAGES

"There is no safe place in Gaza and there is no way out. I am very worried for my colleagues, as I am for all civilians in Gaza."

The Health Ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza said Israeli strikes had killed 7,703 people, mainly civilians, including more than 3,500 children.

The UN rights chief also condemned the Internet and telecommunications blackout that has hit the Palestinian enclave since Friday.

"Compounding the misery and suffering of civilians, Israeli strikes on telecommunications installations and subsequent Internet shutdown have effectively left Gazans with no way of knowing what is happening across Gaza," he said.

Some civilians were using their bare hands to pull injured people from the rubble and loading them into personal cars or donkey carts to rush them to the hospital.

Across Gaza, terrified civilians were huddling in homes and shelters with food and water supplies running out.

U.S., China agree to work towards Biden-Xi meeting

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The U.S. and China agreed on Friday to work towards setting up a meeting between the two countries' leaders next month, after President Joe Biden met Beijing's top diplomat at the White House.

Mr. Biden has invited Xi Jinping to San Francisco in November for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit at a time of tense relations between the two powers. Mr. Xi has not yet confirmed he will come.

After Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Mr. Biden and other senior U.S. officials in Washington, the White House said both countries had agreed to keep up "high-level diplomacy" to try to smooth ties.

The two sides "reaffirmed" that they were "working together towards a meeting between President Biden and President Xi Jinping in San Francisco in November," the White House said.

Curtain raiser: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Washington on Thursday. AFP

An official readout of talks between Mr. Wang and U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan released by Beijing confirmed "both sides agreed to make joint efforts to realise a meeting between the two heads of state".

Mr. Biden told Mr. Wang that Washington and Beijing must "manage competition in the relationship responsibly and maintain open lines of communication," according to the White House.

With the Israel-Hamas conflict raging in West Asia, Mr. Biden also "underscored that the United States and China must work together to address global challenges," it added in a statement.

Clashes between junta, rebels in Myanmar stretch into second day

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

Heavy fighting between rebels and the Myanmar military stretched into a second day near the country's northern border with China, armed groups said on Saturday.

Myanmar's junta seized power in a February 2021 coup that sparked renewed fighting with powerful ethnic rebel groups in northern Shan state.

An alliance of ethnic rebel groups launched coordinated attacks on military positions across the country's north on Friday, posing a fresh challenge to the junta as it struggles to quell resistance to its rule.

The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army said on Saturday it had seized three military outposts – two located close to Mongko near the border with China.

The rebels also ambushed a group of soldiers coming from Hopang and seized military equipment.

The group did not provide details of fatalities.

The Ta'ang National Liberation Army said on Saturday it had so far seized three military outposts at Namhkam and 18 soldiers were killed.

The group also said it had taken two military outposts at Lashio and netted a haul of military equipment.

The military deployed a fighter jet and helicopter gunship to Lashio, the TNLA statement said.

China's reaction

China's Foreign Ministry said on Friday it was "closely following" the fighting and called on all sides to prevent the situation from escalating. Shan state has been earmarked for a proposed billion-dollar rail link under China's Belt and Road project.

Fuming anger: The police stand guard in front of Bangladesh Nationalist party activists during a rally in Dhaka on Saturday. AFP

Police break up anti-PM protest in Dhaka with tear gas, rubber bullets

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

The police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at huge crowds of Bangladesh Opposition supporters on Saturday to break up a giant protest against the Prime Minister, with one officer killed and scores of people injured in several hours of violent clashes in central Dhaka.

More than 1,00,000 supporters of two major Bangladesh Opposition parties rallied to demand that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina step down to allow a free and fair vote under a neutral government.

Live footage on the verified Facebook page of the main Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) showed thousands of people running for safety as sound grenades went off one after another and plumes of black smoke rose from the roads.

The violence spread on roads and in alleys in the centre of the capital as police fired tear gas and rubber shotgun rounds, while the protesters threw stones and bricks.

One officer was killed and more than 100 injured, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police spokesman Faruk Hossain: "The constable was hacked in the head by Opposition activists."

Biggest protests

The protests by the BNP and the largest Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami, were the biggest so far this year, and marked a new phase in their protests with a general election due within three months.

Sheikh Hasina – daughter of the country's founding leader – has been in power for 15 years and has overseen rapid economic growth with Bangladesh overtaking India in GDP per capita, but inflation has risen and her government is accused of corruption and human rights abuses.

The clashes began in front of the city's largest Catholic church when rowdy Opposition supporters fought with sticks and allegedly torched a bus and a police post.

The BNP has called a nationwide strike on Sunday to protest the violence.

Mass killing suspect in U.S.'s Maine found dead

Associated Press
LEWISTON

The Army reservist who opened fire in a bowling alley and then at a bar in Lewiston in Maine in the U.S., killing 18 persons, was found dead on Friday from a self-inflicted gunshot, ending an intensive two-day search by officials that had the State on edge.

Robert Card, a firearms instructor who grew up in the area, was found dead in nearby Lisbon Falls, Governor Janet Mills said at a Friday night news conference.

"Like many people I'm breathing a sigh of relief tonight knowing that Robert Card is no longer a threat to anyone," Ms. Mills said.

"I'm relieved but not happy," a resident said. "There was too much death. Too many people were hurt. Relieved, yes, happy, no," she added.

Maine Department of Public Safety Commissioner Mike Sauschuck said Card was found at 7:45 p.m. near the Androscoggin River, about 13 km southeast of where the second shooting occurred on Wednesday evening.

He declined to divulge the location but an official said the body was at a recycling center from which Card had been fired.

Ms. Mills said she had called President Joe Biden to alert him that Card was dead.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 219,220/2023-24/SE/PHC/MVPA, JJM- Idukki Dt (219)- CWSS to Devikulam and Chinnakanal Pts- Supply and Laying Clear Water Pumping Mains, Construction of sump cum pump house, GLSR at various zones, Supply and erection of Pumpsets, Providing Distribution System and FHTC to various zones (Mattupetty Dam Scheme) - (220) WSS to Mankulam Adimali and Pallivasal Pts-Construction of GL Service Reservoirs, Supply and laying Clear water pumping main and Gravity main,Supply and Laying Distribution lines to 8,9,11,13,15,16,17 and providing FHTC (Adimali Pt), **EMD** : Rs. 500000/- Each, **Tender fee** : Rs. 16540/- Each, **Last Date for submitting Tender** : 09-11-2023, 04:00:pm, **Phone** : 04852835637
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer,
PH Circle, Muvattupuzha
KWA-JB-GL-6-1442-2023-24

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER **TENDER NOTICE**
Adv.No.61/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24 & NIT No.198 & 204/SE-I/TTD/2023-24 Dt:27/10/2023
Name of works: (1) Improvements of Vinayaka Nagar Quarters at Tirupati. Amount Rs.2360 Lakhs, Time for completion 12 months. (2) Construction of Cold Storage (Stilt +4 floors) in the Marketing Godown premises, Near Alipiri, Tirupati, Amount Rs.1300 Lakhs. Time for completion 12 months.
NOTE: For full details log on to the website https://www.tirumala.org.
Roc.No.PR4/13959/Adv.No.237/PRO/2023, Dated:28-10-2023 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Rajasthan Police
State Crime Records Bureau
Ref. No. : S-10(17)/SCRB/CCTNS/Desktop-Printer/AMC/2023-00374/946 Date: 25/10/2023
Corrigendum
Request for Proposal(RFP) for AMC of Workstations for 1 year through Open Competitive Bidding (e-Tendering).
NIB Ref. No.: S S-10(17)/ SCRB/CCTNS/Desktop-Printer/AMC/2023-00374/00790, **Dated:** 04.10.2023
Following changes are to be considered in context to Final RFP published on 04.10.2023 and subsequent corrigendum published, under aforementioned NIB:
1. Revised dates of the aforementioned bid are as follows:

End Date for the submission of Bids	• 03.11.2023 (upto 02:00PM)
Submission of Banker's Cheque/Demand Draft for Tender Fee, Bid Security, and Processing Fee	• 03.11.2023 at 02:00PM
Date/Time/Place of Technical Bid Opening	• Date: 03.11.2023 at 4:00PM • Place: Room No. 726, Conference Hall, SCRB, 7th floor, PHQ, Lal Kothi, Jaipur(Rajasthan)

UBN - CRB2324SLOB00015
R/O No-15264
(Sharat Kaviraj)
Inspector General of Police
SCRB, Rajasthan, Jaipur
DIPR/C/15557

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
TAMIL NADU CONSUMERS COOPERATIVE FEDERATION LTD.
No.29/2, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai - 600093. Email ID: tanco93@yahoo.com
SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE
Short E-Tender No: TNCCF/2023-2024/ET-03, Date: 28.10.2023
Tamil Nadu Consumers Cooperative Federation invites online short electronic tender for **"Purchase of 900 Metric Tons of Double Roasted Rava in 1 kg packets, 800 Metric Tons of Samba Rava 1 kg packets, 700 Metric Tons of Samiya (Vermicelli) 200 gm packets and 100 Metric Tons of Atta 1 kg / 500 gm packets"** for Distribution to Cooperative Institutions. Complete SHORT-E-TENDER document can be viewed and downloaded through **https://tntenders.gov.in** and also available in **nicgep/app** free of cost **from 29.10.2023, 11.30 A.M. onwards.**
The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-III.
Last date and time for Online Submission: **07.11.2023 upto 10.30 A.M.**
DIPR/5785/TENDER/2023 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL TEACHERS TRAINING AND RESEARCH
(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
Taramani, Chennai – 600 113
Advt. No. 10/2023-24

Name of the Post Pay Level – 14 (Rs.144200 – 211800) Based on Direct Recruitment	No. of Post (s)	Reservation					
		SC	ST	OBC	EWS	UR	PwD UR
Professor of Mechanical Engineering	02	0	0	0	0	1	1*
Professor of Computer Science & Engineering	02	0	0	2	0	0	0
Professor of Education	02	0	0	1	0	1	0
Professor of Electrical Engineering	01	1	0	0	0	0	0
Professor of Educational Media and Technology	01	0	0	0	0	1	0
Professor of Educational Management and Applied Science	01	0	0	0	1	0	0
Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering	01	0	0	0	0	1	0
Professor of Rural and Entrepreneurship Development	03	0	1	1	0	1	0
Professor of Electronics and Communication Engineering	01	0	0	0	0	1	0
Professor of Curriculum Development, Planning and Coordination	01	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15	2	1	4	1	6	1

For Details, Visit the Institute website: **https://www.nitttrc.ac.in**
***Note**: **Reservation for PwD – Visual Impairment**
Note: Candidate shall apply for the post of Professor through Direct Recruitment / On Deputation basis/ / Professor of Practice
The selection of Professor on Deputation Basis/ Professor of Practice shall be from the following domain: (a) Computer Science (AI) (b) Drone / Unmanned Aerial Vehicle; (c) Electronics Engineering; (d) Mechanical Engineering; (e) Media / VR / AR; and (f) Electrical Engineering
Professor on Deputation: The scale of Professor level – Level 14 will be paid to the faculty on deputation.
Professor of Practice: Full-time engagement: Consolidated amount, mutually agreed between the institution and expert. Gross salary ranges from Rs.2,50,000/- to 3,00,000/- per month.
DIRECTOR

Studies provide insight into the internal structure of Mars

The Hindu Bureau

Mars's liquid iron core is likely to be surrounded by a fully molten silicate layer, according to a pair of studies published in *Nature*. These results offer a new interpretation of the interior of Mars, suggesting its core is smaller and denser than previously proposed. Seismological study of Mars to understand the interior of the red plant was carried out in 2019. The InSight Mars Lander used an instrument called the Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure (SEIS) to record seismic waves passing through Mars's interior. Data from three years of quakes in Mars, including two seismic events caused by meteorite impacts, were used for the study.

Measurement analysis

The analysis of measurements from the NASA InSight lander's Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure (SEIS) project in 2021 suggested the presence of a large but low-density core, composed of liquid iron and lighter elements such as sulphur, carbon, oxygen and hydrogen.

Lighter elements

However, the result of the two studies published in *Nature* results suggest that the core has a higher proportion of lighter elements than is feasible according to estimates of the abundances of these elements early in Mars's formation history. Amir Khan from the Institute of Geochemistry and Petrology, ETH Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland and colleagues and Henri Samuel from Université Paris Cité, Institut de physique du globe de Paris, CNRS, Paris, and colleagues examined the latest batch of seismic signals in combination with first principles simulations and geophysical models to produce their estimates for the size and composition of the Martian core. The two studies found that the liquid iron-nickel core of Mars is surrounded by an approximately 150 km-thick layer of near-molten silicate rock, the top of which was previously misinterpreted as the surface of the core. This decrease in core radius implies a higher density than estimated in the earlier InSight study. These estimates can more easily be reconciled with our existing knowledge of chemical abundance on Mars.

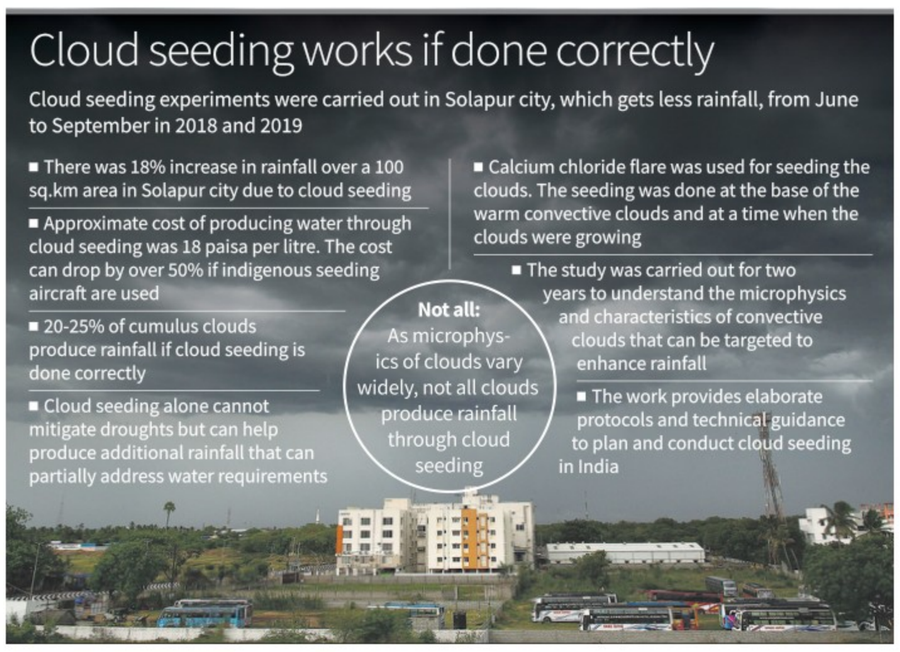
"The molten state of this layer suggests that its temperature must be at least 2,000 Kelvin. This could be a sign that Mars had a turbulent interior following its formation, rather than a calmer one that more gently transported and shed heat to interplanetary space," Suzan van der Lee from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, U.S., writes in an accompanying News and Views article.

IITM Pune demonstrates cloud seeding can produce rainfall

The approximate cost of producing water through cloud seeding was 18 paisa per litre; the cost will drop by more than 50% if we use indigenous seeding aircraft

R. Prasad

A cloud seeding experiment carried out in Solapur city, which falls on the leeward side of the Western Ghats and hence gets low rainfall – 384 mm and 422 mm of total rainfall during the period June to September 2018 and 2019, respectively – was able to achieve 18% relative enhancement in rainfall, which is approximately 8.67mm more rainfall. The relative enhancement of accumulated rainfall was seen over two hours after seeding the clouds. In all, the total enhancement of water availability through cloud seeding experiments was 867 million litres. The results of the study were published recently in the journal *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*.



The experiment – Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment (CAIPEEX phase-4) – was a scientific investigation conducted in Solapur city during the summer monsoon period of 2018 and 2019. The primary objective was to investigate the efficacy of hygroscopic seeding in deep convective clouds and to develop a cloud seeding protocol. The experiment used two aircraft for studying various cloud parameters and for seeding the clouds. The study found that cloud seeding is an effective strategy for enhancing rainfall in a region under suitable conditions. A randomised seeding experiment was undertaken to study the effectiveness of cloud seeding in producing rainfall. In total 276 convective clouds were chosen, and 150 were seeded while the remaining 122 clouds were not seeded.

"In our previous work we have found certain characteristics in a cloud such as the liquid water content in the cloud, the vertical motion in the cloud, which is an indicator of the growth of the cloud, will help inform us if the cloud will rain or not. Based on several criteria we know if a convective cloud has a potential to rain as all clouds cannot rain," she says.

Convective clouds with a depth of over one kilometre and likely to evolve into deep cumulus clouds were targeted.

"We must indicate that the availability of a large number of samples (150/122 seed/no-seed) is a testimony to the rainfall enhancement through hygroscopic seeding with the physical conditions set in CAIPEEX," the authors write.

"The seeded clouds produced more rainfall than the unseeded clouds," Dr. Thara Prabhakaran from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune and the corresponding author of the paper tells *The Hindu*.

Calcium chloride flare was used for seeding the clouds. A cloud seeding flare releases these particles when triggered. The seeding was done at the base of the warm convective clouds and at a time when the clouds were in their growing stage so that the seed particles could enter the clouds with minimum dispersion.

"The convective cloud bases are found at 500-1,500 metres altitude during the summer monsoon period and around 2,000 metres or more altitude during the monsoon break periods, which depends on the moisture content in the lower atmosphere," Dr. Prabhakaran says. "Since the clouds are found at lower heights, the base of the convective clouds is warm, around 15 degrees C."

"But cloud seeding alone cannot mitigate droughts but can help produce 18% more rainfall and partially address water requirements," says Dr. M. Rajeevan, former secretary, Ministry of Earth Science, and a co-author of the paper. Undertaking cloud seeding as catchment-scale projects can possibly help in managing drought conditions.

"The study was carried for two years to first study and understand the microphysics and characteristics of convective clouds that can be targeted to enhance rainfall. The work provides elaborate protocols and technical guidance to plan and conduct cloud seeding in India," he says. The two-year study has helped develop a high-resolution numerical model that can help stakeholders to identify target locations, clouds that can be seeded, and a suitable seeding strategy to enhance rainfall in an area.

One of the most important findings of the study was that not all cumulus clouds produce rainfall when cloud seeding is done. "We found 20-25% of cumulus clouds produce rainfall if cloud seeding is done correctly. The microphysics of clouds vary widely and so not all clouds produce rainfall through cloud seeding," says Dr. Rajeevan.

"Though the relative enhancement of rainfall was 46% as measured by automatic rain gauges, the actual increase in rainfall over a 100 sq.km area was only 18%," says Dr. Prabhakaran.

"We estimated the cost-benefit ratio and found the approximate cost of producing water through cloud seeding was 18 paisa per litre. It was a research experiment and so we hired two aircraft from outside India for seeding the clouds. The cost will drop by more than 50% if we use indigenous seeding aircraft," says Dr. Prabhakaran. In places like Solapur where water is supplied only once in three days, the availability of additional water through cloud seeding will be immensely beneficial.

How much salt should you take every day?

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

Our bodies need salt. Salt also adds taste to our food. However, too much salt in your diet may lead to high blood pressure. The World Health Organization recommends 5 grams of salt in your diet every day.

But the world average is 10.8 grams. A recent report, a part of the national non-communicable disease monitoring survey, states that Indian men consume 8.9 grams, and Indian women take in 7.1 grams of salt on a daily basis (Prashant Mathur et al., *Scientific Reports*, 2023)

Studies in animals, as well as surveys in humans have consistently shown that high salt intake causes disease in the kidney, brain, vasculature, and immune system. High levels of sodium in the diet are also associated with conditions ranging from kidney stones to osteoporosis. It is estimated that excessive salt contribution contributes to around five million deaths worldwide every year.

The Yanomami people of the Amazon rainforest live a foraging lifestyle and eat a diet consisting of the root vegetable Cassava, plantains, fruit, fish and an occasional tapir. They use peppers for flavour, and no salt. They consume less than one gram of salt a day yet stay supremely fit.

Beyond 5 grams: Indian men consume 8.9 grams and Indian women take in 7.1 grams of salt on a daily basis.

High salt and obesity

While our bodies need a certain amount of salt for vital functions, excessive salt intake can lead to health problems such as high blood pressure and heart disease. It's always best to consume salt in moderation. India faces a rapidly escalating burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), nutritional diseases such as diabetes and obesity, in particular childhood obesity. For many young Indians, the "hidden" salt in processed foods is a big danger.

High salt impairs metabolism and increases the size of adipocytes, which are cells in our body that store energy in the form of fat. These two factors together lead to obesity. The preference for high-fat and for salty food may be related. In one experiment, pregnant mice were fed a standard diet (4.6% fat) during the first week of their three-week gestation period. At this point some of them were switched to a high-fat diet (32% fat). The off-spring of the high-fat fed mice preferred salty water to plain or sweetened water.

In population studies, reducing salt intake by five to eight grams daily led to a 4 mmHg fall in systolic blood pressure, and an overall reduction in risk of cardiovascular disease. Data from several clinical trials of antihypertensive drugs show an average reduction in blood pressure of 5mmHg by this class of drugs. Similar results were also seen in a Chinese population study in which dietary sodium was lowered by replacing normal salt with a mixture of 75% sodium chloride and 25% potassium chloride: systolic blood pressure came down by 3.3 mmHg. Oral rehydration solutions recommended by UNICEF contain 60:40 ratios of the two salts.

Lastly, salt reduction may be dangerous for some. Elderly adults must be extremely cautious of hypotension since it might lead to falls. This is especially true if they are taking medication to reduce their high blood pressure.

(The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani, who works in molecular modelling)

SNAPSHOTS

Wild chimpanzees show evidence for menopause

Research has suggested that only humans and some species of toothed whales live many years of active life after the loss of reproductive ability. A new study shows female chimpanzees in Uganda show signs of menopause – surviving long past the end of their ability to reproduce. Signs of menopause in wild chimpanzees may provide insights into the evolution of this rare trait in humans. The vast majority of mammals stay fertile; humans and several species of toothed whales experience menopause.

Pathway driving IRI injury demystified

Lung transplants are life-saving for many patients, but organ failure rate continues to remain high. Now, researchers has discovered a mechanism that contributes to ischemia/reperfusion injury (IRI) in the lung, one of the leading causes of poor outcomes, in transplant recipients. Their data show how the channel TRPV4 is activated in IRI in a mouse model, suggesting that TRPV4 of the pathway could offer targets for researchers seeking to boost the survivability of transplanted lungs.

Role of microbiome in shaping type 1 diabetes

Parsing data from two clinical trials, researchers have mapped out how the gut microbiome can impact how people respond to teplizumab, a drug that can delay the onset of type 1 diabetes. Patients with stronger immune responses against three different gut microbes tend to benefit more from the drug's disease-delaying effects. The results show how the immune system's relationship with the microbiome can shape the progression of type 1 diabetes.

Question Corner

Benefits of walking

How many steps a day can help reduce the risk of premature death?

The idea that you should take 10,000 steps a day originated in Japan in the 1960s, but had no scientific basis.
Researchers have now shown that, if we focus on the risk of dying from cardiovascular disease, most of the benefits are seen at around 7,000 steps.
An international study led by the University of Granada has provided the first scientific proof that 8,000 steps are needed to take per day to reduce the risk of premature death.
Given the average length of a human stride, taking 8,000 steps is equivalent to walking approximately 6.4 kilometres a day.
Researchers have also shown that the pace at which we walk has additional benefits, and that it is better to walk fast than slow. With regard to the risk of dying from cardiovascular disease, most of the benefits are seen at around 7,000 steps.
The study has for the first time shown that the more steps one takes, the better, and that there is no excessive number of steps that has been proven to be harmful to health.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Will QR codes improve access to food labels?

What is the advisory from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India? Why is it important to have labels?

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

The story so far:

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recommended the inclusion of a QR (quick response) code on food products for accessibility by visually impaired individuals stating that this will ensure access to safe food for all.

Why is the move important?

The move is vital as India is one of the largest markets of packaged foods in the world and is currently witnessing a growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which have seen an abrupt rise globally since the last two decades, according to the World Health Organization. Besides other factors, this trend is attributed to aggressively marketed, cheaper, and more easily available pre-packaged foods which is finding a growing preference among consumers. Every consumer has the right to know exactly what he is paying for and if he is getting what he is promised and advertised, says Ashim Sanyal, CEO and secretary of Consumer VOICE, a non-government organisation working in the field of consumer awareness and education. "With this new initiative an informed choice will be offered to consumers," he adds, pointing out that the move should be backed by also identifying unhealthy foods. "The FSSAI should get the sequence right for labelling and QR code for visually impaired should be part of a mandate for front-of-pack labelling (FOPL) warning labels," he says.

The FSSAI has advised that new QR codes should have details about the product, including, but not limited to, ingredients, nutritional information, manufacturing date, best before/expiry/use by date etc

What information will the QR codes provide?

The FSSAI has advised that these new QR codes should encompass comprehensive details about the product, including, but not limited to, ingredients, nutritional information, allergens, manufacturing date, best before/expiry/use by date, allergen warning, and contact information for customer enquiries. It adds that the inclusion of a QR code for the accessibility of information does not replace or negate the requirement to provide mandatory information on the product label, as prescribed by relevant regulations.

The latest advisory caters to two important regulations – the FSSAI's Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 which outlines the information to be included on labels of food products and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 which recognises the rights of individuals with disabilities and emphasises accessibility of health for persons with disabilities.

How did the QR code come into being?

A QR code is a type of two-dimensional matrix barcode, invented in 1994, by the Japanese company Denso Wave for labelling automobile parts. According to market experts, for the food manufacturers, using QR codes on food products can help improve their brand image, customer loyalty, and operational efficiency.

On the importance of accurate and accessible food labels, a recently published paper titled, 'Food literacy & food labelling laws–a legal analysis of India's food policy', noted that aggressively marketed, cheaper and more easily available pre-packaged foods, often considered as foods high in fat, salt, and sugar, is finding a growing preference amongst consumers in India. "To prevent or control further widespread of NCDs, the FSSAI has issued numerous food and packaging laws and acts to control their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale, and import so that a safe and wholesome food is available to consumers. The front-of-pack labelling (FOPL), proposed by FSSAI in 2019, is a key strategy to alert and educate consumers in making an informed choice," notes the lead author of the paper, Om Prakash Bera, country coordinator, Global Health Advocacy Incubator, India. Food industry experts also note that consumers now consider food packaging equally important as a product. "The increase in smartphone usage by consumers indicate that QR codes are emerging as one of the most promising technologies to enhance the information provided to consumers and influence their buying behaviour," they note.

What are the trends in QR use worldwide?

The U.S., India, France and the U.K. are among the top users of QR code, according to reports. A research paper done on 'Evaluating the Use of QR Codes on Food Products' noted that the size of the global packaged food market is estimated at $303.26 billion in 2019, with a compound annual growth rate of 5.2% over this period. According to the results of a survey, 'QR Code Statistics 2022, the Latest Numbers and Use-Cases on Global Usage', 57% scanned a food QR code to get specific information about the product, 38.99% of respondents want to see QR codes used more and 67% of the respondents agreed that these codes make life easier.

What's in store for economy in second half?

Could the West Asia flare-up push oil prices further up and disrupt food and fertilizer supply lines? How may fraught geopolitical events, rising risk aversion, higher interest rates and volatile markets impact India? Have domestic concerns about inflation faded?

Vikas Dhoot

The story so far:

The Indian economy, measured in terms of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as well as Gross Value-Added (GVA), grew 7.8% between April and June (first quarter or Q1) this year, a four quarter-high. The Finance Ministry believes the momentum of economic activity was carried forward in the July-September quarter, despite retail inflation hardening to 6.4% from 4.7% in Q1 thanks to a spike in food prices. Growth estimates for Q2 will come in next month, but the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects GDP growth to moderate to 6.5%. A week into the second half of the year, the Israel-Palestine conflict erupted and a spate of fresh dark clouds now hover over the economy.

How have experts reacted to recent events?

Economists feel a prolonged conflict in West Asia could push crude oil prices beyond India's comfort zone and if other countries join the fray, critical sea routes could face disruptions and spike transport and insurance costs. The government may not pass on higher petroleum prices to consumers ahead of critical elections, but producers' costs may still rise. Airlines, for instance, have been hiking fares in line with aviation turbine fuel costs. Moreover, higher fuel import bills could pose implications on the exchequer as oil marketing companies may need support for under-recoveries. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her first remarks since the strife in Gaza, said it has brought concerns about fuel, food security and supply chains back to the forefront. She flagged concerns about the impact of any disruptions on inflation in the near future. In subsequent comments, she has also emphasised the need to ensure that global food, fertilizer and fuel supplies did not become an "instrument of war and disruption".

The RBI Governor is confident of the overall macro essentials of the Indian economy despite fresh uncertainty

The RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, who chaired a monetary policy review hours before Hamas launched the first salvo in the conflict, summed up the emerging situation eloquently. "We all thought that the period of uncertainties is over, but as you would have seen in the last fortnight, new uncertainties have been thrown up while some that already existed, like oil prices and volatility in financial markets, have got more pronounced," he said last Friday. Among the new uncertainties, he listed the spurt in U.S. bond yields that hit a 16-year high this month and mixed global data points amid fears of "higher for longer" interest rates. A cut in India's interest rate is not on the cards, he emphasised. "Interest rates will remain high... how long... only time and the way the world is evolving, will tell." Higher interest rates can impact investment flows in markets like India.

GETTY IMAGES

Is there a shift in the assessment of risks for the economy?

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised its 2023-24 GDP growth estimate for India to 6.3% this month from 6.1% estimated earlier. This is just slightly below the 6.5% GDP uptick the Finance Ministry and the RBI have penned in for this year, following last year's 7.2% growth. In its monthly economic review report released last month, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in the Finance Ministry said it was comfortable with the 6.5% hopes "with symmetric risks". Bright spots of corporate profitability, private sector capital formation, bank credit growth and construction sector activity offset the risks at the time. These included steadily climbing crude oil prices ("but no alarms yet") and an overdue global stock market correction, which it termed "an ever-present risk". The RBI, this month, also asserted that risks from the uneven monsoon, geopolitical tensions, global market volatility and economic slowdown, were "evenly balanced". The RBI expects GDP growth to slow to 6% in the current quarter, and further to 5.7% in January to March 2024 before picking up to 6.6% in Q1 of 2024-25. Governor Das has since exuded confidence in the overall macro fundamentals of the Indian economy, despite the uncertainties that have emerged this month.

Last Monday, in its latest economy review, the DEA noted that though domestic fundamentals are strong and improving, downside risks arise from global headwinds that have been compounded by recent developments in the Persian Gulf, and uncertainties in weather conditions due to El Niño effects. "Depending on how the situation develops, crude oil prices may push higher. Further, the relentless supply of U.S. Treasuries and continued restrictive monetary policy in the U.S. (with further monetary policy tightening not ruled out) could cause financial conditions to be restrictive," it said. It was also prescient about the U.S. stock markets having a greater correction risk, which would have spillover effects on other markets. India's stock markets clocked six straight days of sharp declines before a marginal recovery was seen this Friday. The DEA has flagged a broader worry about fraught geopolitical conditions triggering a surge in risk aversion. "If these risks worsen and are sustained, they can affect economic activity in other countries, including India," it noted, even as it averred that India's growth story remained on track. Inflation had eased to 5% in September from a 15-month high of 7.4% in July and the department highlighted higher upticks in industrial capacity utilisation levels, private consumption and investment, retail loans extended for vehicles and housing as bright spots in its economic outlook. The report also cited 'optimistic' findings from RBI's forwarding-looking surveys on manufacturing, consumer confidence, employment and inflation expectations to stress all is well.

What are domestic factors to watch out for?

Inflation may have subsided last month, but could creep back up. The RBI, which expects average inflation of 5.4% through 2023-24, has penned in a 5.6% average uptick in prices for the October to December quarter and 5.2% for the first six months of 2024. While some vegetable prices have corrected, inflation in onions has shot up while for pulses and some cereals, prices are likely to stay high for a while. The IMF and World Bank expect inflation to average even higher at 5.5% and 5.9%, respectively. The RBI's preferred 4% inflation mark remains elusive as do prospects of interest rate cuts. This doesn't bode well for a sustained rise in consumption demand that is vital to revive private investments. A Bank of Baroda study on consumption trends shows that production of readymade garments, mobile phones, hair dye, shampoo, cookers and even ice cream, had declined between 12% to 20% in the first five months of this year. "Normally when inflation is high households tend to cut back on discretionary spending which is what is being seen today," it noted. With pent-up demand effects fading, the next couple of months will determine whether consumption has actually picked up, the Bank's economists said. Rural demand which has been lagging, will be important, and may come under more pressure if some crops' output is affected. Last but not the least, an economist from a rating firm said, the upcoming election season could imply some slowdown in public capex in infrastructure that revved up the economy in recent quarters.

Why will police stations install DNA systems?

What are the concerns? Why has the National Crime Records Bureau cautioned against the misuse of the database by ensuring identification and deployment of appropriate safeguards allowing only designated officials to access the data in real time?

Vijaita Singh

The story so far:

In April 2022, the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act (CrPI) was passed by Parliament. The Act enables police and central investigating agencies to collect, store and analyse physical and biological samples including retina and iris scans of arrested persons. The rules that would govern the Act were notified in September 2022. However, the Act is yet to be implemented fully as the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the nodal agency, is still preparing the guidelines and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to implement the legislation. The NCRB operates under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Though the Act and rules do not distinctly mention collection of DNA samples and face-matching procedures, in subsequent meetings with State police officials, the NCRB has said that these measures will be rolled out in around 1,300 locations across the country.

Plans to include DNA samples and facial recognition technology have raised questions about the protection of data

Why was the legislation brought in?

The CrPI Act repealed the British-era Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920 whose scope was limited to collecting and recording finger impressions, footprint impressions and photographs of certain category of convicted persons and impressions of non-convicted persons on the orders of a Magistrate. The government said the new Act made provisions for the use of modern techniques to capture and record appropriate body measurements.

GETTY IMAGES

What is the role of the NCRB?

The central body has been entrusted with the task to "store, process, share, disseminate and destroy records of measurements." Impressions taken at any police station will be stored in a common database maintained by the NCRB. The database could be accessed by authorised police and prison officials across the country.

The NCRB will prescribe the specifications of the equipments or devices to be used for taking measurements in digital and physical format, the method of handling and storing measurements by the State police in a format compatible with the NCRB database and also the information technology system to be used for taking the measurements. Police and prison officials have been authorised to take measurements and the Act expanded the scope to also allow any person skilled in taking the measurements or a registered medical practitioner or any person authorised to take such measurements. The records are to be stored for 75 years.

What is the status on the ground?

Police across States have been trained to record finger impressions through the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS).

However, several police officials said the iris scanners and devices that would enable capturing of DNA and facial-recognition systems are yet to be provided.

NAFIS, also under the NCRB, is a separate project that was launched in 2022. It assigns a unique ten-digit National Fingerprint Number (NFN) to all suspects arrested by the police. State police have their own fingerprint database. NAFIS integrates the data on a common platform, enabling the police to run a countrywide search to match fingerprint impressions lifted from a crime scene.

NAFIS workstations are operational in many States.

What are the challenges?

When the Bill was being debated in Parliament, Opposition members argued that it violated fundamental rights, including the right to privacy. With plans to include DNA samples and facial-recognition technology, questions arose about the protection of such data.

A police officer in Uttar Pradesh said that though the rules state that measurement of persons detained or arrested under prohibitory and preventive sections of law are not to be recorded, not many officers are aware of it. The rule states that unless a person is booked under prohibitory and preventive sections that are clubbed with other serious criminal charges, the measurements will not be stored in the system.

It takes the onus of destruction and disposal of records of an individual from the central database in case a person has been falsely implicated in a crime or has been acquitted by the court. For such a disposal/destruction, the request will have to be made to the nodal officer.

According to Software Freedom Law Center, India, an Internet advocacy group, "The onus for destruction of data in this 75-year time period has also been placed on the people whose data has been collected. This would impact people from sections of society who do not have access to the law and would therefore be unable to apply for deletion. The provision should be read in terms of the Right to be Forgotten and should not be at the mere discretion of the Nodal Officer." The type of DNA samples that could be collected by the police have not been defined yet.

Another police officer said, "handling DNA sample requires proper training. The storage is also a concern. It is compulsory in offences registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. However, what is its scope in other crimes such as cheating and snatching is yet to be spelt out clearly."

In meetings with the States, the NCRB has cautioned against the misuse of the database by ensuring identification and deployment of appropriate safeguards allowing only designated officials to access the data in real time.

Another government official in the Northeast said connectivity is a huge problem and police in smaller States have been unable to fulfil the requirement of secured Internet lease lines.

PROFILES

The party of God

Hezbollah

With fears of a wider war in West Asia rising amid Israel's intensifying onslaught on the Gaza Strip, all eyes are on Hezbollah, Lebanon's powerful Shia militant group that had fought the Israelis in the past and has declared support for Hamas's 'right to resist' the occupation of the Palestinian territories

Stanly Johny

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

With Israel intensifying its bombardment of Gaza, in which more than 7,700 people were killed in 22 days, fears of a wider regional war are also rising. Israel started bombing Gaza, a tiny, defenceless enclave of 2.3 million people, after Hamas, an Islamist militant group that controls the land strip, carried out a cross-border raid on October 7, killing at least 1,400 Israelis. After Israel started the retaliatory strikes, Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shia militant group that had fought Israel in the past, fired rockets into the Shebaa Farms, a Lebanese territory on the border that Israel occupies, showing "solidarity" with the Palestinians. Last week, Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah met Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad leaders and offered support for the "Palestinian resistance". Some Hezbollah fighters also tried to infiltrate into northern Israel after the Gaza war began. Israel responded with heavy shelling of southern Lebanon. As tensions rise, the world is watching whether Hezbollah would open another front or Israel carry out pre-emptive strikes in Lebanon, widening the conflict.

Ironically, the roots of Hezbollah go back to Israel's 1982 war on Lebanon, which the then Likud Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, said would bring "forty years of peace for Israel". Lebanon was in the grip of a devastating civil war that began in 1975. According to Lebanon's post-French Constitution, power was divided among the country's different communities – the Presidency is reserved for Christians, the Premiership for Sunnis and the Speakership for the Shias. Roughly 40% of Lebanon's population are Arab Shias. The influx of the Palestinian refugees into Lebanon and the relocation of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) to Lebanon from Jordan in 1971 would create fissures in the country's delicate confessional system. While the Sunnis and Maronite Christians were the powerful sects, Shias were the invisible majority, sidelined by the major players and post-colonial institutions.

Israel attacked Lebanon in 1978 and 1982, first to push the PLO out of the border region and then out of the country. In 1982, the PLO would agree to leave Lebanon, but one community that bore the brunt of Israel's disproportionate bombing was the already marginalised Shias.

Three years earlier, a geopolitical earthquake had shaken West Asia – in Iran, which was an American ally, Shia Mullahs captured power. Iran, which was already fighting a conventional war with Iraq (1980-88), sensed an opportunity in Lebanon's chaos. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of the Iranian regime helped mobilise thousands of Shias in Lebanon in 1982 to form a loose network of what was then unofficially called the 'Islamic Resistance'.

Early attacks

One of the first targets of the Islamic Resistance was the Multinational Forces (MNF) deployed in Lebanon. In April 1983, the U.S. Embassy in Beirut was bombed, killing 63 people. In October, 305 people, mostly American and French soldiers, were killed in suicide attacks on their military barracks. Following these attacks, the MNF would leave the country, providing the first victory to the newly organised Shia militants. Israeli troops retreated to a "security zone" in southern Lebanon. In 1985, the Islamic Resistance would come up with a manifesto, calling for the destruction of the state of Israel, vowing to oust occupied forces from Lebanon and declaring allegiance to Iran's Supreme Leader. According to some reports, it was Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Supreme Leader, who picked the name 'Hezbollah' (literally 'the Party of God') for the new movement.

Over the years, Hezbollah has built sprawling social, political and military networks with deep roots in Lebanon's Shia community. In southern Lebanon, a Shia stronghold, it carried out a disciplined, effective, popular guerilla war against the occupying Israeli forces, turning the 'security zone' into what Adam Shatz calls an 'insecurity zone'. The party organisation has been built in a Leninist order, centralising authority in the hands of the Secretary General. The chief would oversee a seven-member Shura council, like the Polit Bureau of a communist party, and then there are sub councils. Their social network caters to the Shia working class, offering support, including healthcare and education assistance, in a country where the state is systemically weak, while the political and parliamentary councils have played the role of a kingmaker in Lebanon's fractured polity since 1992. Yet, the most important arm is the Jihad Council, which controls its military activities.

Israel assassinated Hezbollah's co-founder Abbas al-Musawi in 1992 as part of a policy of targeted killings to weaken rival outfits. But the man who succeeded Musawi, Hassan Nasralla, turned Hezbollah into a socio-politico-militant giant, "a state within the state", though it has been designated as a terrorist outfit by Israel and its allies. In 2000, after 18 years of occupation, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak decided to unilaterally withdraw from southern Lebanon, which Hezbollah celebrated as "the first Arab victory in the history of Arab-Israeli conflict". But Israel's withdrawal would not quieten the Lebanese border. Hezbollah said it would continue to fight the Israelis as long as its occupation of Shebaa Farms and Palestinian territories continues. In its 2019 updated manifesto, Hezbollah reiterated its commitment for the destruction of Israel.

War with Israel

In 2006, after Hezbollah carried out a raid and abducted two Israeli soldiers, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert declared war against the militant group. The war lasted for over 30 days and even on the last day of fighting, Hezbollah launched hundreds of rockets into Israel. Israeli air strikes and ground attacks destroyed much of Hezbollah's military infrastructure, but the group survived, and emerged politically stronger in Lebanon. In the subsequent years, Hezbollah rebuilt its military power, mainly with help from Iran. From the 1980s, Syria's Baathist regime has been a conduit between Iran and Hezbollah. When Bashar al-Assad's regime was losing control in the midst of the Syrian civil war, Nasrallah despatched thousands of soldiers to fight alongside the Syrian Army. Hezbollah emerged stronger out of the Syrian conflict, with newly gained battlefield experience. It has also strengthened the Iran-Syria-Hezbollah axis.

Israel sees Hezbollah as a potent rival. According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, the militia has up to 20,000 active fighters and as many reservists, with an arsenal of small arms, tanks, drones, and long-range rockets. Last November, while briefing about Israel's past conflicts with Hezbollah on the Lebanese border, an Israeli Brigadier told this writer they never underestimated Hezbollah, which "has now amassed more than 1,00,000 rockets". "Hezbollah is a tough enemy. They have very good military equipment. They are very well-trained," he said, requesting anonymity. That Israel has mobilised 3,50,000 troops suggests that it is taking the risk of a wider war seriously. Hezbollah, on the other side, keeps everyone guessing, while reiterating its rhetorical support for Hamas. "We are fully ready to fight Israel when time comes," says the 'Party of God'.

THE GIST

- Hezbollah was formed in 1982 during Israel's invasion of Lebanon with help from Iran. In its first manifesto released in 1985, the group called for the destruction of the state of Israel
- Over the years, Hezbollah has built sprawling social and political networks with deep roots in Lebanon's Shia community and made itself the most powerful non-state actor in West Asia
- When Israel withdrew from southern Lebanon in 1982 after 18 years of occupation, Hezbollah celebrated it as "the first Arab victory in the history of Arab-Israeli conflict"

The man with the gavel

Mike Johnson

The long shadow of Donald Trump over the lower House of Congress seems to have helped the election of the Louisiana Congressman as the new Speaker

Narayan Lakshman

ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

The U.S. House of Representatives finally succeeded in electing a Speaker, after more than three weeks of a leadership crisis in the chamber, the deleterious outcome of which was the stalling of important bills relating to federal government finances and congressional funding and support for Israel and Ukraine. In the aftermath of the ouster of Kevin McCarthy from the top role in the chamber on October 3, the candidate who emerged victorious after multiple rounds of closed-door confabulations and voting is Mike Johnson, Representative of Louisiana.

To win the coveted post, which makes him second in line for the U.S. presidency, Mr. Johnson had to persuade lawmakers that his relative lack of experience at the highest echelons of the House governance apparatus would not stand in the way of his proficiently wielding the Speaker's gavel. Other than the Republican Study Committee, Mr. Johnson has not occupied the top role in any high-profile House committee.

How, then, did Mr. Johnson reach this exalted point in his political career? Quite simply, it appears that the same political force that rendered the search for Speaker an embattled process equally propelled a candidate such as Mr. Johnson to the top: the long shadow of the 45th President of the U.S., Donald Trump, over the Lower House of Congress.

Looking back at the ouster of Mr. McCarthy and the failure of Tom Emmer of Minnesota, Jim Jordan of Ohio, and Steve Scalise of Louisiana to secure the gavel by cornering the minimum of 217 votes, it was the degree to which each of them enjoyed the support of the pro-Trumpers in the House that ultimately made the difference.

This begs the question of how far Mr. Johnson has gone to support the controversial views of Mr. Trump on a range of hot-button issues, and how he emerged as a compromise candidate to satisfy the demands of both the Trump-supporting camp and their opponents within the House Republican caucus.

Originally elected to Congress in 2016, Mr. Johnson represented an avowedly conservative corner of northern and western Louisiana. His tenure on Capitol Hill saw him rise gradually through the ranks of House Republican system, when he joined the Judiciary and Armed Services Committees and the recently-established select committee on 'Weaponisation of the Federal Government'.

Hard right conservative

An examination of his voting record during this time, along with statements that he has made on the record, suggest that the relatively mild-mannered Representative was in reality a hard right conservative on social issues. For example, he has said he does not believe that humanity has caused the climate crisis, that he is against abortion, and is unapologetic in his opposition to LGBTQ+ rights. On foreign policy, he has voted against continuing U.S. aid to Ukraine.

However, Mr. Johnson's political leanings were most lucidly on display in recent years when he took a lead in the legal challenges contesting the results of the 2020 presidential election in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, essentially arguing that ballot voting – necessitated by COVID-19-related lockdowns and movement restrictions – was a fraud by Democrats that allegedly denied Mr. Trump a fair run at winning the presidency.

Now that Mr. Johnson has gained the Speaker's gavel, he has the power to introduce an ever-wider range of bills that favour the political agenda of Mr. Trump.

By setting the scene legislatively for Mr. Trump and thus paving the way for the latter's second presidential campaign, Mr. Johnson will now put Democrats' backs against the wall and force their hand in opposition to every contentious bill in the House.

The inevitable collapse of bipartisanship in the Lower Chamber that this outcome presages could well impact the very quality of governance by the federal government, not to mention deepen the bitter polarisation of the electorate on issues such as reproductive rights, immigration, the role of the government in steering the economy, and racism.

Power player

V.K. Pandian

The Tamil Nadu-born bureaucrat, who was Odisha CM's private secretary, opted for voluntary retirement and was appointed Chairman of 5T with Cabinet Minister's rank

Satyasundar Barik

At dawn, senior bureaucrats, including the Chief Secretary, in track suits, briskly converge at project sites to review progress and set completion targets – a distinctive routine during past years in Odisha. As the project executors stand ready with their briefings, all eyes fall on an IAS officer positioned at the forefront. His presence is considered pivotal in ensuring that projects meet their targets and advance rapidly.

Meet V.K. Pandian, the Tamil Nadu-born aide of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, and a force behind the swift implementation of several projects. He now holds the rank of a Cabinet Minister as Chairman of 5T (Transformational Initiatives) and Nabin Odisha.

Until recently, he served as the longest-standing private secretary to the Odisha CM, earning both Opposition scrutiny and the ruling Biju Janata Dal's (BJD) admiration.

The CM has never been in doubt of the loyalty and efficiency of this 2000-batch IAS officer. Mr. Pandian had applied for voluntary retirement from the IAS on October 20 (Friday), 2023. Next two days were public holidays. Approval with waiver of the notice period came on October 23 – a pace unheard-of in the Department of Personnel and Training. The next day, a notification of his appointment as Chairman of 5T was issued by the State government. The transition of Mr. Pandian could not have been possible without the CM putting his weight behind it, exemplifying the deep trust he enjoys.

Often clad in a white shirt, the lanky bureaucrat has earned a reputation of being a go-getter. In 2002, Mr. Pandian became Sub-collector of Dharmagarh in Kalahandi district, beginning an impactful journey in governance. Subsequent postings as Collector of Mayurbhanj and Ganjam, two big districts, were test of his competency.

In 2011, he was posted as private secretary to the Odisha CM. Mr. Patnaik, who is set to become the longest serving CM of India by next year, had faced a rare crisis in 2012 when his former adviser, the late Pyari Mohan Mohapatra, raised a banner of revolt. Mr. Pandian was a key member of a select group that foiled the attempt to split the BJD. Since then, there has been no turning back for him.

Political acumen

During the initial years in the Chief Minister's Office, he used to be reticent and elusive. Insiders observe that Mr. Pandian's sharp political acumen, in addition to his routine official works and ability to design welfare programmes, earned him the confidence of Mr. Patnaik. Soon, the closeness moved beyond the State Secretariat to Naveen Niwas, the residence of the CM. Mr. Patnaik, a bachelor who was not in the best of health, found support and personal care from Mr. Pandian.

In 2019, the 5T initiative (team work, technology, transparency, transformation and time limit), a benchmark deciding the performance of government officials and project execution, was rolled out. Mr. Pandian headed the initiative accruing higher administrative power to review projects cutting across all departments.

Perhaps this confidence led him to think of and execute mega projects such as transforming SCB Medical College Hospital into AIIMS Plus institute, developing Puri as a world-class heritage town, laying foundation for Bhubaneswar metro project and creating massive sports infrastructure. The former IAS officer remained a controversial figure for the Opposition parties which accused him of misusing power. During his recent district tours, he had extensively used helicopters – unusual for a serving IAS officer. The criticism by the Opposition and the sharp newspaper editorials gradually calmed down when the CM said he had approved his visits.

Though Mr. Pandian never spoke of his political ambitions, the BJD and the Opposition parties knew that he was involved in formulating the party's electoral strategies. BJD MPs and legislators never shied away from according their respect to Mr. Pandian. Political observers say it is a matter of time before Mr. Pandian would openly shed his inhibition and assume a greater role in the government and the party.

INBRIEF

At least 16 die in ArcelorMittal mine fire in Kazakhstan

At least 16 people have died in a mine fire in Kazakhstan, ArcelorMittal Temirtau, the local unit of the Luxembourg-based steelmaker which operates the mine, said on Saturday. Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who expressed condolences, ordered his cabinet to stop investment cooperation with the ArcelorMittal Temirtau, and the government said it was finalising a deal to nationalise the company that runs the country's biggest steel mill. REUTERS

Dr. Reddy's unit in Hyderabad gets 10 U.S. FDA observations

A formulations manufacturing facility of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories in Hyderabad has been issued a Form 483 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The observations were issued on completion of a routine cGMP inspection of the facility (FTO-3) in Bachupally. The inspection was conducted from October 19-27 and a Form 483 with 10 observations issued, which the company will address within the stipulated timeline, Dr. Reddy's said.

Pfizer's Q2 net slumps 52% to ₹149 cr., revenue falls 9.76%

Drug firm Pfizer Ltd. on Saturday reported 52.11% decline in net profit to ₹148.96 crore for the second quarter ended September. The company had logged a net profit of ₹311.07 crore in July-September period a year earlier, according to a regulatory filing by Pfizer. Revenue from operations declined 9.76% to ₹575.21 crore in the quarter as against ₹637.47 crore in the year-earlier period. Total expense was at ₹410.76 crore, down 5.66%. PTI

Fed's preferred gauge shows still-persistent price pressures in U.S.

Price increases stayed elevated in Sept. amid brisk consumer spending, as per an inflation gauge that is closely monitored by the Federal Reserve

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

An inflation gauge that is closely monitored by the Federal Reserve showed price increases remained elevated in September amid brisk consumer spending and strong economic growth.

Friday's report from the Commerce Department showed that prices in the U.S. rose 0.4% from August to September, the same as the previous month. And compared with 12 months earlier, inflation was unchanged at 3.4%.

The figures the government issued Friday show a still-surprisingly resilient consumer, willing to spend briskly enough to power the economy even in the face of persistent inflation and high interest rates. Spread across the economy, the strength of that spending is itself helping to fuel inflation.

Tapping savings

In a cautionary note, consumers relied increasingly on savings to fuel their shopping last month. Income growth slowed. Adjusted for inflation, income actually fell slightly.

Yet spending jumped 0.4%, after adjusting for inflation. The saving rate fell to 3.4%, down from the 6%-plus average before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"That is clearly unsustainable, and we expect spending growth will slow sharply in the quarters ahead," said Michael Pearce, lead U.S. economist at Oxford Economics, a consulting firm.

September's month-to-month price increase exceeds a pace consistent with the Fed's 2% annual inflation target, and it compounds already higher costs for such necessities as rent, food and gas. The Fed is widely expected to keep its key short-term interest rate unchanged when it meets next week. But its policymakers have flagged the risk that stronger growth could keep inflation persistently high and require further rate increases to quell it.

Since March 2022, the U.S. central bank has raised its key rate from near zero to roughly 5.4% in a concerted drive to tame inflation. Annual inflation, as measured by the separate and more widely followed consumer price index, has tumbled from the 9.1% peak it reached in June of last year.

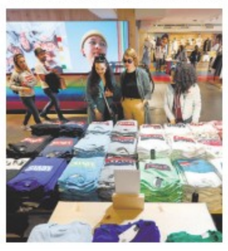
Services spending rises

On Thursday, the government reported that strong consumer spending drove the economy to a robust 4.9% annual growth rate in the July-September quarter, the best such showing in almost two years. Heavy spending by consumers typically leads businesses to charge higher prices. In Friday's report, the government also said that consumer spending last month jumped a robust 0.7%.

Spending on services climbed, as per Friday's report, led by greater outlays for international travel, housing and utilities.

Consumption spurs inflation

Brisk U.S. consumer spending led the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) index 0.4% higher month-on-month in Sept.



- The Fed's preferred PCE gauge showed year-on-year inflation was unchanged at 3.4%
- Data shows a resilient consumer, willing to spend briskly even in the face of persistent inflation and high interest rates
- Consumers, however, relied more on savings to fuel shopping

Inflation to dog world economy in 2024, delay rate cuts

Reuters
BENGALURU

Poll of more than 200 economists suggests interest rates will remain higher for longer

High inflation will dog the world economy next year, with three-quarters of more than 200 economists polled by Reuters saying the main risk is that it turns out higher than they forecast, suggesting interest rates will also remain higher for longer.

Several central banks are still expected to begin cutting interest rates by the middle of 2024, but a growing number of economists surveyed are adjusting their views, pushing the more likely date into the second half of next year.

Despite broad success in slowing inflation from its highs, prices are still rising faster than most central banks would prefer.

The latest poll resulted in 2024 growth downgrades and inflation upgrades for a majority of the 48 economies surveyed.

UltraTech to invest ₹13,000 cr. in third phase of expansion

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Board of Directors of UltraTech Cement on Saturday approved the third phase of the company's expansion at an investment of ₹13,000 crore towards increasing capacity by another 21.9 mtpa with a mix of brownfield and greenfield projects.

"Our fresh commitment of ₹13,000 crore underscores our deep-rooted belief in India's economic potential," said Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla.

The expansion also includes investments in setting up additional 39 MW Waste Heat Recovery System (WHRS) capacity at a cost of ₹453 crore and ₹180 crore towards alternative fuel feeding and handling equipment to reduce carbon emissions.

Capacity addition

Post commissioning of the third phase of expansion, UltraTech said it would have 35.5 mtpa in the South, 40.4 mtpa in the East, 36.2 mtpa in North; 35.7 mtpa in Central, and 33.8 mtpa in the West.

Network facelift requires additional funding: Accenture

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Narrowing the gap between digitalisation and network capacity will require more investment in network modernisation such that the network itself becomes a competitive advantage, said Saurabh Kumar Sahu, Managing Director and Lead – Communications, Media and Technology, Accenture in India.

Digitalisation has increased a staggering 162 times while network capacity has grown only 43 times while innovation spend on network has grown just two-fold in the past 15 years, he said quoting industry estimates.

Rising strain

"As data continues to grow and generative AI becomes more pervasive, it will put further strain on current networks. To thrive in a world driven by a volatile macro environment and accelerated innovation enabled by next-gen technologies, telcos must commit to continuous, dynamic reinvention," he emphasised.

The network of the future must be a modern one and an enabler of future technologies and innovation, not a cost center, he insisted further.

On generative AI, Mr. Sahu said it could help free up time and resources critical for telcos to innovate.

BPCL turns a Q2 net profit of ₹8,243 crore

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) turned a consolidated net profit of ₹8,243.55 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, following a net loss of ₹338.49 crore in the year-earlier period.

However, profit fell sequentially from ₹10,644.30 crore that the state-owned refiner had clocked in the June quarter. Revenue from operations slid to ₹1,16,657.34 crore, from ₹1,28,355.72 crore.

Expenditure, including towards crude oil, at ₹1,06,295.31 crore (₹1,29,438.65 crore) was lower, while throughput increased to 9.35 million tonne (8.82 MT) during the quarter. Market sales stood at 12.19 MT (11.44 MT).

The standalone first-half net profit of ₹19,052 crore was a record, the company said in a filing.

"This achievement will spur us to scale greater heights for advancing progress," chairman and MD G. Krishnakumar said in a statement.

In the year-earlier six-month period, BPCL had reported a standalone loss of ₹6,567.22 crore.

TVS Credit Q2 net up 40% to ₹134 cr. on higher consumption

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The firm added 20 lakh new customers in H1 FY24, raising its total customer base to over 1.2 crore

TVS Credit Services Ltd.'s standalone net profit for the September quarter rose 40% over the year-earlier period to ₹134 crore.

The non-banking financial company (NBFC) reported a total income of ₹1,399 crore, a rise of 49%, it said in a statement.

In the first half, the company posted net profit of ₹252 crore and assets under management grew by 14% to ₹23,516 crore.

During H1, credit demand continued to be strong aided by higher consumption and infrastructure outlay by the government.

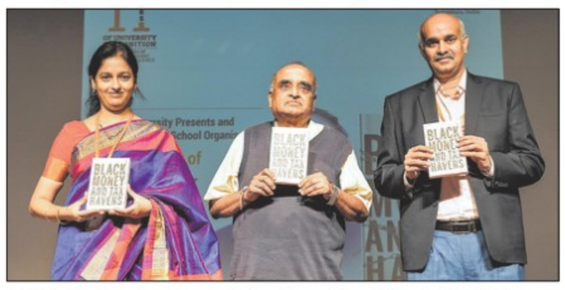
TVS Credit's business witnessed significant growth, led by the robust performance of consumer loans with a book growth of 59%, it said. The company added 20 lakh new customers during H1 FY24, resulting in a total customer base exceeding 1.2 crore.

As part of its digital transformation initiatives, TVS Credit has also transitioned all applications onto the cloud platform, enhancing operational efficiency and performance.

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

REVA University organised the launch of Prof. R. Vaidyanathan's book Black Money and Tax Havens



REVA University hosted the launch of Prof. R. Vaidyanathan's book Black Money and Tax Havens' at Chanakya Auditorium attended by personalities from various quarters, including writers, faculty, staff and students. The formal launch of the book was jointly done by the author Prof. R. Vaidyanathan; Dr. M. Dhanamjaya, Vice Chancellor, REVA University; and Dr. A. Shubha, Dean, REVA Business School. Professor Vaidyanathan addressed the gathering and explained how he came up with the book's concept when working in US, he got a broad idea and investigated the topic when colleagues questioned the source of Indians' unity he responded saying its corruption. . The discussion moderated by Dr A Shubha began with a brief about black money, corruption and how policies can be implemented to curb the same. After the talk, students participated in a Q&A session with the author Prof. Vaidyanathan where the younger generation expressed their perspectives and subject-matter expertise. He thanked REVA University for the opportunity provided to launch the book at the sprawling campus.

Empowering Success: Narayana Group's "Safalta ka Rasta" Inspires Class 10 Students

A special session, "Safalta ka Rasta," was organized by Bangalore Zone of Narayana Group of Schools for Class 10 students, and turned out to be a resounding success with over 1000 enthusiastic Narayanites. Director, Ms. Sharani Ponguru presence and inspirational speech motivated the students a sense of determination and zeal. Subject experts provided clarity on various subjects and eased the burden of uncertainty in their studies. Additionally, a dedicated career guidance session opened a window into the myriad opportunities and possibilities that await the students as they plan for their futures. The session helped the students effectively mind map their paths towards success. The enthusiastic participation and impactful learning experiences of students during the event were a testament to Narayana Group's ongoing mission to provide quality education and holistic development for all.

Christ Incubation Centre Inauguration

Recently the Christ Incubation Centre (CIC) was inaugurated in the Bangalore Central Campus, marking a historic moment for Bengaluru's innovation landscape. With the mission to empower and support the next generation of innovators, CIC will provide mentorship, resources, and guidance to help transform innovative concepts into thriving businesses. The event was honoured by the presence of Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Government of Karnataka, as the Chief Guest, who highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship and innovation building in the startup ecosystem in Karnataka. MrJeya Chandran, Regional Head of Southern India at the United Nations Development Programme, as the Guest of Honour, spoke about the importance of starting small and growing as the opportunities come along. This momentous event was held at the KE Auditorium.

AMC Engineering College Bengaluru organised a Development Dialogue on Future of Academia

AMC Institutions organised a Development Dialogue on Future of Academia under the aegis of Amrit Kaal Vimarsh - Vikasit Bharat @2047 in its Bannerghatta Road Campus, Bangalore. The Programme which was attended by more than 1500 students was held aligning with the initiative of Ministry of Education, Government of India and AICTE. Mr. Sharath Chandra, Global Head - L&D Infosys BPM was the Guest Speaker on the occasion. Mr, Rahul Kalluri, Executive Vice President, AMC Institutions in his opening remarks expressed in the next phase of twenty five years, the growth of our country would be much more exciting and could be termed as a golden era for the Indian Economy on all fronts. In his Key Note Address Mr Sharath Chandra expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Education and AICTE for the initiative of holding Academia-Industry Dialogue through the Amrit Kal Vimarsh Vikasit Bharat @ 2047. He also advised the students to be adept with overall development to get into industry. He further advised them to take up extracurricular activities along with academics to derive maximum benefits out of the emerging opportunities. The attitude should change from Can do to Will Do.

Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru was awarded of "5G Use Case Lab" by Department of Telecommunications, Government of India

Shri Narendra Modiji, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of India inaugurated "5G Use Case Labs" in 100 Higher Education Institutions across the country through video Conference on 27th October 2023 at as part of Indian Mobile Congress, 2023. Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru is one among the 100 premier institutes awarded "5G Lab". The "5G Labs Initiative" is an endeavor to realize the opportunities associated with 5G Technology by encouraging the development of 5G applications which cater both to India's unique needs as well as the global demands. Dr. S.V. Dinesh, Principal, Dr. Shivakumaraiah, Chief Executive Officer, HODs' and faculties from all the departments and more than one thousand students participated in the award function.

X unveils two premium subscription plans

Reuters

Elon Musk's social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, rolled out 2 new subscription plans, including a Premium+ tier for users willing to pay for ad-free experience.

The Premium+ plan, priced at about $16 per month, includes all the tools and features offered by the platform, minus the ads, the company said.

It will, however, be available for users accessing the platform through a web browser for now, it added.

The basic tier is priced at $3 per month but is not ad free.

Orkla India to go digital to expand reach, says CEO

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Orkla India, formerly MTR Foods, is embarking on a comprehensive digital transformation exercise to increase visibility for its brands MTR, Eastern and Rasoi Magic in domestic and international markets.

The company, owned by Orkla ASA, a Norwegian industrial investment firm, is currently in the process of roping in one of the big four consulting firms to give a strategic direction for its digital foray.

"We have started a forward looking function for digital transformation and sustainability," Sanjay Sharma, CEO, Orkla India, told *The Hindu*. "This will significantly scale up our digital presence, boost sales and give us better edge in the domestic and international markets," said Mr. Sharma.

Sanjay Sharma

Currently, different brands are in different stages of maturity in their digital journey, and the company's new digital focus would bring synergy to the whole group, he said.

"We will deploy artificial intelligence and data analytics to build predictive analytics to enhance customer satisfaction and to deliver the exact products retailers are looking for in a particular store so that retailers need not entirely depend on their own sales data to decide on future stocking," he said.

The digital play would primarily cover the company's third-party e-com sales and take care of internal digitalisation across sales, marketing, manufacturing and HR functions.

FUN ENDEAVOUR

Fans are getting to see another side of us, says Rahul

K.R DEEPAK

The fielding medal being presented within the Indian dressing room during the World Cup, has evoked tremendous interest and K.L. Rahul said: "Fans are seeing a version of cricketers that they have not seen before. When we cross the boundary line, there will be pressure but the best we can do outside the field is to enjoy ourselves."

FIRST STRIKE

In the next four games if we can bat first it will be a challenge: Rahul

K.R. DEEPAK

The Men in Blue have chased successfully so far in this World Cup but as a prelude to the semifinal stage, a few stints batting first might help the team have a more rounded preparation. K.L. Rahul said on Saturday: "In the next four games if we can bat first it will be a challenge for us to just see how to pace the innings."

PROLIFIC

Warner overtakes Kohli, becomes fourth-highest scorer in WC history

R.V. MOORTHY

David Warner on Saturday overtook Virat Kohli to become the fourth-highest run-scorer in ICC World Cup history. The 36-year-old achieved this during his 65-ball 81 against New Zealand at Dharamshala. In 24 matches, Warner has scored 1,405 runs at 63.86, whereas Kohli has notched up 1,384 n 31 matches at 55.36.

PENALTY

Pakistan players fined 20% match fee for slow over-rate against SA

R. RAGU

The Pakistan players were fined 20% of their match fee for slow over-rate in their World Cup match against South Africa. "Match referee Richie Richardson imposed the sanction after the side was ruled to be four overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration," said an ICC release.

On-a-roll India raring to extend its dream run against sinking England

The Men in Blue remain undefeated after five matches while the latter finds itself being weighed down by the defending champion tag and bruised by four losses, and will be desperate for a turnaround in its fortunes

ODI WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
LUCKNOW

The labyrinth of roads criss-crossing Lucknow's heart are dotted with heritage buildings, harking back to a bygone era. The other end of the spectrum has contemporary streets and suburbs with their skyscrapers. Modern pizzas and ancient *tunday kebabs* jostle together in a multi-layered culinary landscape.

In this city imbued with history's footprints, India takes on England in a World Cup game at the Ekana Stadium here on Sunday. The host gets another chance to extend its winning run. Be it Shubman Gill's absence in the initial two games or Hardik Pandya's current hibernation, Rohit Sharma's men have found a way to stay afloat and land their punches.

Squaring against India is a rival, weighed down by the defending champion tag and bruised by four losses. A lone win over Bangladesh remains a mild palliative balm. England's Bazball swagger in Tests has gone missing in ODIs under a different coaching structure.

Nosedived

Jos Buttler's men won the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia last year. However, while transitioning into this year's conventional World Cup, the performance has nosedived and their mighty words have become bluster. No England player features in the current top-10 run-getters or wicket-takers' list in this World Cup.

Ben Stokes nursed an injury and still turned up but his usual propensity to script miracles is yet to surface. The sands of time are running out fast for the visitors and a turnaround against India could be a booster dose even if a last-four berth remains a vague proposition.

If England seeks a reversal of fortunes, India needs to stay in its triumphant cocoon. Five wins on the trot is a tribute to the squad's consistency and those brief testing phases against Australia and New Zealand were effectively countered. A lot rides on Rohit, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja. The quartet has been vital while the others had their moments.

Gill and Shreyas Iyer, all fluid runs and inexplicable dismissals, need to stay tight. In the bowling flank, Mohammed Siraj had the odd dull phase, but overall has been an apt foil to Bumrah. With Mohammed Shami too being a part of the playing eleven, India has a fine pace trio.

The middle-over strangle may not have been fully implemented against New Zealand at Dharamshala as Kuldeep Yadav went for runs and it remains to be seen if the brown texture of the playing surface here forces the management to further augment its spin resources with R. Ashwin. Like this city's Burma biscuits with their eternal flavour notes, India too would prefer a sense of longevity in its winning path while England wants a dalliance with hope.

The teams (from):

India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), K.L. Rahul (wk), Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur and Kuldeep Yadav.

England: Jos Buttler (Capt. & wk), Joe Root, Harry Brook, Dawid Malan, Ben Stokes, Moeen Ali, Liam Livingstone, Sam Curran, David Willey, Chris Woakes, Jonny Bairstow, Mark Wood, Gus Atkinson, Adil Rashid and Brydon Carse.

Umpires: Rodney Tucker and Adrian Holdstock; **Third umpire:** Ahsan Raza; **Match referee:** Richie Richardson.

Match starts at 2 p.m.

Today's match

INDIA vs. ENGLAND
Lucknow
2 p.m.

EYE ON THE SKY
High 33°C
Low 16°C
Mist
Source: IMD

H2H IN ODIs

	M	India	England	Tied	NR
Overall	106	57	44	2	3
In India	**51**	**33**	**17**	**1**	**0**
In World Cup	8	3	4	1	0

1975: England won by 202 runs (group stage), Lord's
1983: India won by six wickets (semifinal), Manchester
1987: England won by 35 runs (semifinal), Mumbai
1992: England won by nine runs (round-robin), Perth
1999: India won by 63 runs (group stage), Birmingham
2003: India won by 82 runs (group stage), Durban
2011: Match tied (group stage), Bengaluru
2019: England won by 31 runs (round-robin), Birmingham

Amusement on the go: Kohli and Gill in a happy frame of mind on the eve of the England clash. K.R. DEEPAK

Talking tactics: Dravid and Rohit having a discussion during training on Saturday. K.R. DEEPAK

Rahul hopes to make happier memories at Lucknow

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
LUCKNOW

Returning to the Ekana Stadium, K.L. Rahul must have felt a gamut of emotions sweeping through him. Leading Lucknow Super Giants in an IPL fixture against Royal Challengers Bangalore here on May 1, this year, the batter suffered an injury, a torn tendon in his right leg while fielding.

Subsequently he underwent surgery in England, took a break to recuperate before winging his way back to the Indian squad. On Sunday, he will step onto this turf, hoping to exorcise the ghosts of the past.

"The last memory of this ground is about me falling down and injuring myself. Hopefully I can put that aside and make some better and happier memories," Rahul told the media here on Saturday.

Dangerous team

Speaking about England, Sunday's opponent in the World Cup, Rahul said: "It is important that we keep doing what we have been doing and focus on our strengths. England is the defending champion. They may not have had a few results going their way but they are still a very dangerous team."

Skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have scored a bulk of India's runs and Rahul reacted: "It is a good thing when your senior players are in form. That is what you expect from Rohit and Virat. Whoever has got the opportunity, they too have contributed and every player has a different role."

Rahul spoke about working on the mental aspects besides enhancing his wicketkeeping skills. "Outside noise did affect me and I worked at addressing it. I have got a lot more thick-skinned.

"The medical team at the NCA felt that with the kind of injury I had, the difficult part would be wicketkeeping. So I worked harder on my fitness and wicketkeeping," Rahul said and added that the Indian team is better prepared for this World Cup.

Different script: Rahul will step onto the Lucknow turf, hoping to exorcise the ghosts of the past. K.R. DEEPAK

India sitting pretty with all departments working in sync

Sunil Gavaskar

The word party-poopers is usually used for teams that are not very experienced but has some players who, with their individual brilliance, can lead their team to upset more experienced and fancied teams. Who would have thought at the beginning of this World Cup that the defending champions England would be reduced to being called possible party spoilers.

Their party has not just taken off with New Zealand beating them handsomely in the first game of the tournament and then Afghanistan and Sri Lanka also pouring cold water on their dreams of advancing to the knockouts.

Of course, technically they can still do that, but right now they can only be party spoilers for the teams they are due to play in their remaining matches.

The hosts India are having a terrific time in this World Cup with both the batting and bowling looking good.

Their fielding too has been top class with the standard set in their first match of the tournament by Kohli's acrobatic diving catch to his left to dismiss Mitchell Marsh.

Kohli has batted superbly from the first game itself with the ball hitting the middle of the bat sweetly. Rohit Sharma, the skipper, has shown the way by getting after the bowling straightaway and thus putting pressure on the opposition. Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer have spent good time out in the middle and hopefully have kept the big scores for crucial times.

Rahul has been the other lynchpin of the batting, and his calm, cool approach to the task immediately eases any nerves there may be in the dugout. The bowling too has multiple heroes with Bumrah, the spearhead, with his two strikers Siraj and Shami. The spinners Kuldeep and Jadeja have been speed bumps in the middle of the opposition innings by taking wickets and bowling economically.

The teams that are struggling are those that haven't got off to a good start and England are one such team. If they get off to a good start, then with the depth that they have in their batting, they should be posting over 300 runs regularly. Their bowling looks a bit unsuited to Indian pitches and if the seamers don't get the early wickets then Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali's roles become crucial.

Lucknow is famous for its "after you" culture. We will see whether the hosts extend that courtesy or will throw England out of the tournament.

(Professional Management Group)

Our batters aren't reading the situation and not taking the right options, says Trescothick

Pranay Rajiv
LUCKNOW

When the schedule for the 2023 World Cup was drawn, most would have earmarked the clash between India and England in Lucknow on October 29 as a potential top-of-the-table shootout.

But as it whittled down to reality, the plot has veered awry. The defending champion has endured a damaging tournament, losing four of its five games, while, India is comfortably placed in second, with five wins in five.

Different moods: Carse, left, will be eager to make an impression if he gets a chance while Woakes will look for a turnaround. K.R. DEEPAK

England's assistant coach Marcus Trescothick was quick to admit how much his side has underperformed in the tournament, on the eve of the India clash.

"We've just not been matching up to the levels we expect. It has been disappointing. It's just not quite worked when we go into the games," said Trescothick.

England's vaunted batting line-up hasn't lived up to the expectation, with its most recent failure coming against Sri Lanka, where it folded up for 156.

"We just haven't put pressure on opposite bowlers consistently. Our batters aren't reading the situation, taking the right options, and then getting that big score," added Trescothick.

With the Lucknow crowd set to stream in for the first-ever World Cup match involving India in the town, the pressure will only mount for England. But, Trescothick chose to see it as an opportunity to make a statement.

"I think playing against India in a World Cup here is special. You know there'll be a big crowd. We're looking forward to it. All we can do is go out and play well and hopefully, come out on top," said Trescothick.

Spirited Aussies deny gallant Kiwis a record chase

Neesham just falls short of taking Kiwis home after Ravindra's second century of this edition; Head marks his debut in the showpiece event with a hundred while Warner's good form continues

Open and close: Head led Australia's run-fest with an aggressive century on his return from injury while Neesham's run out effectively put paid to Kiwis' spectacular effort. R.V. MOORTHY

ODI WORLD CUP

Rakesh Rao
DHARAMSHALA

How often have the New Zealand cricketers won hearts instead of a close match? Once again, these genial giants proved gallant in pursuit of a seemingly uphill task and left the spirited Aussies triumphant by just five runs.

On a batting beauty, if New Zealand believed it could overhaul Australia's 388, its optimism could not be faulted. With the ball coming nicely on to the bat, short boundaries encouraged the batters to clear the ropes.

Decisive blow

After all, the Australian openers David Warner and Travis Head had shown the way. In the evening, following Rachin Ravindra's century, James Neesham kept the Kiwis alive in the world-record chase till the last ball.

Effectively, Neesham's run out in attempting to complete a second run off the innings' penultimate ball proved decisive.

Ravindra's delightful shot-making on way to his second World Cup century left New Zealand eyeing 96 runs off 59 deliveries. However, once he holed out to deep extra-cover, Neesham took over and almost scripted a stunning win.

Earlier, truly eventful was Australia's ride to 388, dotted with a record high of 20 sixes. A blistering 175-run start, including 144 in the first 13 overs, preceded an 18-over spin-dominated phase when only 92 runs came for four wickets.

From the 40th over, a 'second wind' produced 108 runs off nine overs, followed by fall of the last four wickets, including three to pacer Trent Boult in the penultimate over, for one run.

Travis Head, making his World Cup debut after recovering from a fractured left-hand, blasted a 67-ball 109 to outpace in-form fellow left-hander David Warner who fell short by 19 runs. The duo smashed 11 boundaries and 10 sixes in the first 13 overs to leave New Zealand skipper Tom Latham wondering whether it was a wise decision to field first.

Phillips' fine spell

If Australia did not cross 400, New Zealand owed it to off-spinner Glenn Phillips, left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner and Boult.

Introduced in the14th over, Phillips produced a spell of 10-0-37-3, scalping Head, Warner and Steve Smith.

Santner sent back Mitchell Marsh and Marnus Labuschagne in successive overs to keep Australia at 279 for five in 39 overs.

With speedster Lockie Ferguson not available following an ankle-twist after bowling just three overs, Australia changed gears. With 11 overs to go, Glenn Maxwell ended an 18-over spell of single-digit scores and smashed a 24-ball 41.

Josh Inglis made up for a slow start with a 38 off 28 balls before skipper Pat Cummins' 14-ball 37 rekindled the prospects of posting a 400-plus total before Boult's triple strike hastened the end.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA

David Warner c & b Phillips 81 *(65b, 5x4, 6x6)*, Travis Head b Phillips 109 *(67b, 10x4, 7x6)*, Mitchell Marsh b Santner 36 *(51b, 2x4)*, Steve Smith c Boult b Phillips 18 *(17b, 2x4)*, Marnus Labuschagne c Ravindra b Santner 18 *(26b, 2x4)*, Glenn Maxwell c Boult b Neesham 41 *(24b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Josh Inglis c Phillips b Boult 38 *(28b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Pat Cummins lbw b Boult 37 *(14b, 2x4, 4x6)*, Mitchell Starc c Neesham b Henry 1 *(3b)*, Adam Zampa b Boult 0 *(3b)*, Josh Hazlewood (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (b-1, nb-2, w-6): 9; Total (in 49.2 overs): 388.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-175 (Warner, 19.1), 2-200 (Head, 23.2), 3-228 (Smith, 29.4), 4-264 (Marsh, 36.3), 5-274 (Labuschagne, 38.1), 6-325 (Maxwell, 44.3), 7-387 (Inglis, 48.1), 8-388 (Cummins, 48.3), 9-388 (Zampa, 48.6).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Henry 6.2-0-67-1, Boult 10-0-77-3, Ferguson 3-0-38-0, Santner 10-0-80-2, Phillips 10-0-37-3, Ravindra 8-0-56-0, Neesham 2-0-32-1.

NEW ZEALAND

Devon Conway c Starc b Hazelwood 28 *(17b, 6x4)*, Will Young c Starc b Hazelwood 32 *(37b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Rachin Ravindra c Labuschagne b Cummins 116 *(89b, 9x4, 5x6)*, Daryl Mitchell c Starc b Zampa 54 *(51b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Tom Latham c Hazlewood b Zampa 21 *(22b, 2x4)*, Glenn Phillips c Labuschagne b Maxwell 12 *(16b, 1x4)*, James Neesham run out 58 *(39b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Mitchell Santner c Maxwell b Zampa 17 *(12b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Matt Henry c Hazlewood b Cummins 9 *(8b, 1x4)*, Trent Boult (not out) 10 *(8b, 1x6)*, Lockie Ferguson (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-4, w-22): 26; Total (for nine wkts. in 50 overs): 383.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-61 (Conway, 7.2), 2-72 (Young, 9.4), 3-168 (Mitchell, 23.6), 4-222 (Latham, 31.2), 5-265 (Phillips, 36.6), 6-293 (Ravindra, 40.2), 7-320 (Santner, 43.3), 8-346 (Henry, 46.4), 9-383 (Neesham, 49.5).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING

Starc 9-0-89-0, Hazlewood 9-0-70-2, Cummins 10-0-66-2, Maxwell 10-0-62-1, Zampa 10-0-74-3, Marsh 2-0-18-0.

Toss: New Zealand; **PoM:** Head.
Australia won by five runs.

Next assignment

New Zealand: November 1 vs. **South Africa,** Pune, 2 p.m.

Australia: November 4 vs. **England,** Ahmedabad, 2 p.m.

Equal to the task: Ravindra's delightful century kept New Zealand's steep chase well on course. R.V. MOORTHY

'It was nice to be in the squad when at home'

Dhruva Prasad
DHARAMSHALA

Australia had shown a lot of faith in Travis Head by naming him in the World Cup squad despite his broken hand that he sustained a little over six weeks ago against South Africa.

After repaying that faith with a blistering hundred against New Zealand on Saturday, the opener said it felt nice to be part of the squad despite being at home in Australia.

"Definitely at home it was nice to be kept in the squad. I understood a lot of things had to go right, personally and with the team. So, I didn't really feel the pressure today. I just wanted to come out and play and contribute," he said.

It was Head's eagerness to grab the opener's spot, which he said he had been eyeing for two years, that ensured all the risks the management took paid off.

"Obviously, with [Aaron] Finch playing for such a long period and their [with David Warner] partnership being so good and the limited chance I had, I was able to take and sort of waited a couple of years for that spot to open up," he said.

Head returned to the ODI side in March 2022 after almost four years and struck a 107-ball 101 against Pakistan in his first game. Only after Finch retired in September last year, did Head and David Warner come together to form a lethal opening pair.

On Saturday, the duo added 175 in 19 overs for the first wicket and Head said that going hard in the first PowerPlay was a strategy that helped. "We understand that it's not going to be like that every day, but if we can be as positive as that, I think it gets us both in better positions."

A bevy of records

Lalith Kalidas
CHENNAI

Australia and New Zealand combined for the highest aggregate (771) in a World Cup match, eclipsing the record set by South Africa and Sri Lanka earlier in the edition (754 in New Delhi).

Australia recorded the highest first PowerPlay score in the competition, accumulating 118 and bettering New Zealand's 116 versus England in the 2015 edition.

Travis Head smashed a 25-ball fifty in his comeback match – the fastest of this edition.

Australia smashed 20 sixes, the second-most after England's 25 against Afghanistan in 2019.

Rachin Ravindra (23y 244d) is the second-youngest after Sachin Tendulkar (22y 313d in 1996) to hit two World Cup hundreds.

Edwards and van Meekeren sparkle as Netherlands stuns Bangladesh to record its second win

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

In one of the most memorable World Cups for the lower-ranked sides, The Netherlands recorded its second upset win, outsmarting Bangladesh by 87 runs on Saturday to lift the game's popularity back home.

Captain Scott Edwards' determined half-century and Paul van Meekeren's four-wicket haul were the highlights of a fine Dutch show that disheartened thousands of green shirts, including from those across the border, at Bangladesh's second home – the Eden Gardens.

Batting first, the Netherlands managed 229 and restricted Bangladesh to 142 on a slow track.

Dutch captain Scott Edwards (68) scored his second fifty of the tournament to rescue his side. Fine contributions from Wesley Barresi, who featured in his second World Cup after 2011, and Sybrand Engelbrecht and a cameo from Logan van Beek also helped the Netherlands in posting a fighting total.

Bangladesh made early inroads but let off the Netherlands batters due to its sloppy fielding.

Taskin Ahmed, returning from an injury, and Shoriful Islam brought joy for The Tigers by taking two wickets early. However, the 39-year-old Barresi cut, pulled and drove with confidence to add 59 runs with Colin Ackermann and steadied the ship. Bangladesh dismissed the two in consecutive overs.

Mustafizur Rahman had the prized scalp of Barresi as skipper Shakib Al Hasan ran in from cover to take the skier.

In a role reversal, Mustafizur held Ackermann at short fine-leg off Shakib even as the Netherlands, at 63 for four, needed another consolidation.

Edwards was unperturbed even after being dropped twice on zero in a Mustafizur over and getting another lucky escape. Playing each delivery on merit, he ran smartly and sent the loose ones to the ropes on either side to add 44 with de Leede and 78 with fellow hard-working batter Engelbrecht.

Despite witnessing three catches spilled off his bowling, Mustafizur hit the right areas to return two for 36.

Bangladesh's reply was utterly disappointing. While the Dutch bowlers, backed by committed fielding, executed their plans well, Bangladesh batters suffered due to their poor shot selection.

After the openers' dismissal for 19, Mehidy Hasan Miraz (35) played an attacking knock. But van Meekeren's three-wicket burst ensured Bangladesh's collapse. Najmul Hossain Shanto flattered to deceive, Shakib's special preparation was in vain and Mushfiqur Rahim's defence was not good enough. And, de Leede removed Miraz and Mahmudullah. Bangladesh couldn't recover from 70 for six and experienced the humiliation of losing its fifth straight match.

Orange army: Van Meekeren is all pumped after nailing one of his four victims. *Right:* Edwards' top score of 68 lifted Netherlands to a competitive total. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
South Africa	6	5	1	10	2.032
India	5	5	0	10	1.353
New Zealand	6	4	2	8	1.232
Australia	6	4	2	8	0.970
Sri Lanka	5	2	3	4	-0.205
Pakistan	6	2	4	4	-0.387
Afghanistan	5	2	3	4	-0.969
Netherlands	6	2	4	4	-1.277
Bangladesh	6	1	5	2	-1.338
England	5	1	4	2	-1.634

SCOREBOARD

NETHERLANDS

Vikramjit Singh c Shakib b Taskin 3 *(9b)*, Max O'Dowd c Tanzid b Shoriful 0 *(3b)*, Wesley Barresi c Shakib b Mustafizur 41 *(41b, 8x4)*, Colin Ackermann c Mustafizur b Shakib 15 *(33b, 1x4)*, Scott Edwards c Mehidy b Mustafizur 68 *(89b, 6x4)*, Bas de Leede c Mushfiqur b Taskin 17 *(32b, 2x4)*, Sybrand Engelbrecht lbw b Mahedi 35 *(61b, 3x4)*, Logan van Beek (not out) 23 *(16b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Shariz Ahmad run out 6 *(8b)*, Aryan Dutt c Mehidy b Shoriful 9 *(6b, 1x6)*, Paul van Meekeren lbw b Mahedi 0 *(2b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, w-7): 12; Total (in 50 overs): 229.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-3 (Vikramjit, 1.4 overs), 2-4 (O'Dowd, 2.2), 3-63 (Barresi, 13.4), 4-63 (Ackermann, 14.4), 5-107 (de Leede, 26.6), 6-185 (Edwards, 44.3), 7-185 (Engelbrecht, 45.1), 8-194 (Shariz, 47.1), 9-212 (Aryan, 48.5).

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Shoriful 10-0-51-2, Taskin 9-1-43-2, Shakib 10-1-37-1, Mehidy 4-0-17-0, Mustafizur 10-1-36-2, Mahedi 7-0-40-2.

BANGLADESH

Litton Das c Edwards b Dutt 3 *(12b)*, Tanzid Hasan c Edwards b van Beek 15 *(16b, 3x4)*, Mehidy Hasan Miraz c Edwards b de Leede 35 *(40b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Najmul Hossain Shanto c van Beek b van Meekeren 9 *(18b, 2x4)*, Shakib Al Hasan c Edwards b van Meekeren 5 *(14b)*, Mushfiqur Rahim b van Meekeren 1 *(5b)*, Mahmudullah c Dutt b de Leede 20 *(41b, 2x4)*, Mahedi Hasan run out 17 *(38b, 1x4)*, Taskin Ahmed c de Leede b van Meekeren 11 *(35b, 1x4)*, Mustafizur Rahman b Ackermann 20 *(35b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Shoriful Islam (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (w-6): 6; Total (in 42.2 overs): 142.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-19 (Litton, 4.2), 2-19 (Tanzid, 5.2), 3-45 (Najmul, 11.5), 4-63 (Shakib, 15.6), 5-69 (Mehidy, 16.5), 6-70 (Mushfiqur, 17.4), 7-108 (Mahedi, 29.4), 8-113 (Mahmudullah, 32.3), 9-142 (Mustafizur, 41.6).

NETHERLANDS BOWLING

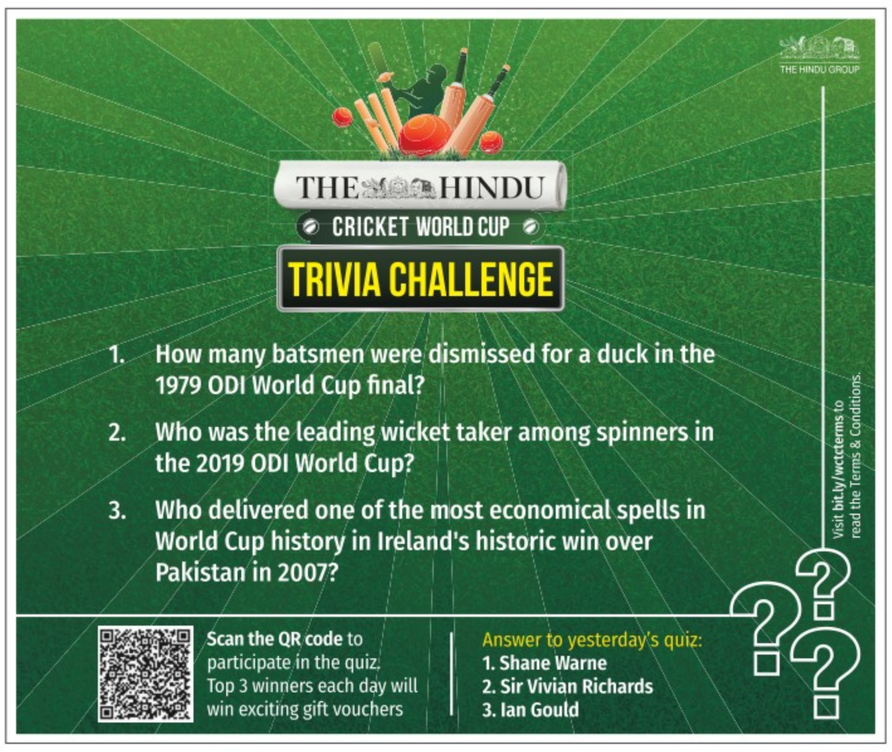
Dutt 10-3-26-1, van Beek 9-1-30-1, Ackermann 7-1-25-1, van Meekeren 7.2-0-23-4, de Leede 7-0-25-2, Shariz 2-0-13-0.

Toss: Netherlands.
PoM: van Meekeren.
Netherlands won by 87 runs.

Next assignment

Bangladesh: October 31 vs. **Pakistan,** Kolkata, 2 p.m.

Netherlands: November 3 vs. **Afghanistan,** Lucknow, 2 p.m.



INBRIEF

Punjab and Kerala triumph in National Games basketball

Punjab and Kerala won the men's and women's basketball titles at the National Games in Margao.

The results (finals): Men: Punjab 105 (Amjot Singh 42, K. Gurbaz Sandhu 19, Shaj Pratap Sekhon 17, Amritpal Singh 12, Gurwinder Singh 11) bt TN 103 (B. Soorya 28, Aravind Kumar 24, Pranav Prince 17, Lokheswaran 12).
Women: Kerala 57 (R. Sreekala 29) bt Karnataka 54 (Sanjana Ramesh 21).

Debutant Inter Kashi holds host Gokulam Kerala

Inter Kashi made a fine debut in the I-League holding former champion Gokulam Kerala to a 2-2 draw in Kozhikode on Saturday.

The results: Real Kashmir FC 2 (Wayne Vaz 49, Shaher Shaheen 90+6) bt Rajasthan United FC 0; Gokulam Kerala 2 (Alex Sanchez 8, P.N. Noufal 54) drew with Inter Kashi 2 (Edmund Lalrindika 29, Mohammed Asif 90+1).

Karnataka beat Bengal in senior women's Twenty20

Karnataka beat Bengal by five wickets in the BCCI senior women's T20 trophy match at Vadodara.

The scores: Bengal 134/6 in 20 overs (Dhara Gujjar 28, Richa Ghosh 36, P. Bala 34) lost to Karnataka 137/5 in 19.4 overs (Vrinda Dinesh 58, Divya Gnanananda 27 n.o.).

Hyderabad FC holds Mumbai City FC in the ISL

Mumbai FC's Jose Luis Espinosa Arroyo's own goal in the extra time helped Hyderabad FC share points in their Indian Super League match at the Mumbai Football Arena on Saturday. After a barren first half, the host went ahead courtesy of Manoj Mohammed's own goal in the 76th minute.

The result: Mumbai City FC 1 (Manoj Mohammed 46-OG) drew with Hyderabad FC 1 (Jose Luis Espinosa Arroyo 90+6-OG).

India signs off with a whopping overall tally of 111 medals

Neeraj and Gaviot win gold in javelin and 400m respectively; Darpan and men's rapid VI-B1 team take top honours in chess

ASIAN PARA GAMES

Press Trust of India
HANGZHOU

Indian athletes created history on Saturday as they ended their Hangzhou Asian Para Games campaign with an unprecedented 111 medals, the biggest haul for the country in any major international multi-sport event. On the concluding day on Saturday, India added 12 medals, including four gold.

With 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze in their kitty, the total tally was four more than the record 107 medals won in the Asian Games recently.

India ended fifth in the medals tally with China topping the charts with 521 medalls (214 gold, 167 silver, 140 bronze).

Podium finish: Javelin throwers Neeraj and Tek Chand celebrate their gold and bronze medal-winning show. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

39 more than 2018

India won 39 more medals than the 2018 edition with athletics contributing 55 (18 gold, 17 silver, 20). Indian shuttlers contributed 21 medals, including four gold, while chess, archery and shooting gave eight, seven and six medals respectively.

The only other instance of India crossing the 100-medal mark in a major international multi-sport event was the 101 medals at the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games.

On Thursday, Neeraj Yadav began the gold rush by winning the men's javelin F55 with a Games record of 33.69m.

Twin success

Dilip Mahadu Gaviot added another athletics gold by claiming the men's 400m T47 race with a time of 49.48 seconds.

Chess players saved the best for the last with a seven-medal day, including two gold. Satish Inani Darpan won the men's individual rapid VI-B1 event, while the trio Darpan, Pradhan Kumar Soundarya and Ashwinbhai Kanchanbhai Makwana took the team gold.

Other medallists:

Athletics: Bronze: Tek Chand (men's javelin F55); Pooja (women's 1500m T20).

Chess: Silver: Pradhan Kumar Soundarya (men's individual rapid VI-B1).

Bronze: Ashwinbhai Kanchanbhai Makwana (men's individual rapid VI-B1); Kishan Gangoli (men's individual rapid VI-B2/B3); Kishan Gangoli, Somendra and Aryan Balchandra Joshi (rapid VI-B2/B3 team); Vruthi Saganlal Jain, Himanshi Bhaveshkumar Rathi, Sanskruti Vikas More (women's rapid VI-B1 team).

Rowing: Silver: Anita and Konganapalle Narayana (PR3 mixed double sculls).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Aditya, Ishaan and Rivaan reign

Aditya Patnaik, Ishaan Madesh and Rivaan Dev Preetam emerged champions at the end of the fifth and final round of the Meco-Fmsci Rotax Max National karting championship in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The results: Senior: Aditya (Rayo Racing, 408 points); **junior:** Ishaan (Peregrine Racing, 439); **micro:** Rivaan (MSPORGT, 413).

Ishaan, Rivaan, and Aditya with their reward..

Roots FC posts win

Roots FC defeated Bangalore Dream United FC 2-0 in the BDFA Super Division football league.

The results: Roots FC 2 (Victor Britto 79, Godwin Johnson 80) bt Bangalore Dream United FC 0; FC Bengaluru United FC 3 (Rishabh Dobriyal 29, Chesterpoul Lyngdoh 79, Yash Mhatre 88) bt HAL FC 0.

Yashovardhan and Vishal excel

Yashovardhan Parantap (4/33) and Vishal Onat (84 n.o.) powered Karnataka past Pondicherry in the BCCI men's u-23 one-day trophy match at Surat.

The scores: Pondicherry 227 in 48 overs (Jashwanth Shreeram 36, Shashank 45, Sai Hariram 44, A. Kamaleeshwaran 31, Yashovardhan Parantap 4/33) lost to Karnataka 233/2 in 37.2 overs (Macneil Hadley 56, Vishal Onat 84 n.o., K.V. Aneesh 37, R. Smaran 46 n.o.).

Niksheap hits unbeaten 102

K. Niksheap's 102 n.o. powered City Gymkhana past Merchants CC (2) in the KSCA Group I, IV Division league in Bengaluru

The scores: Merchants (2) 293/8 in 50 overs (S.V. Amar 72, Anikait Chadha 71, Chethan Maney 47 n.o., Manu Ravindra 5/57) lost to City Gymkhana 296/8 in 49.2 overs (Robin Joseph 43, Ratan Thosh 29, K. Niksheap 102 n.o., H.B. Raghuveer 59, S. Gowtham 3/40).
Hanumanthanagar 238/7 in 50 overs (M.S. Ashwin 72, Ryan Gonsalves 63, Bharath Gowda 31, Asgar Pasha 4/47) lost to Wadiyar 239/7 in 47.5 overs (Mohammed Ruman 83, Mohammed Ajmal 76 n.o., Mohammed Pasha 26, L.G. Arjun 5/52).
Jeevanbhimanagar 142 in 39.1 overs (G. Akshay 40 ,Atish Vikram 34, M.C. Karan 4/38, Raiyan Malik 3/26) lost to Jayanagar Colts 143/3 in 29.3 overs (Nagesh Rao 41, Vishesh Navin 50).
Palace Orchard 112 in 33.1 overs (M. Mohith 25, S.J. Aadharsh 3/13, Kiran Kumar 3/27) lost to Friends Cricket Team 115/8 in 36.1 overs (S.J. Aadharsh 25, D.S. Vaishnav 28 n.o., S. Santhosh 4/17).
Lions 198 in 47.2 overs (N. Sanjay 38, Satyabrat Jena 50, B.T. Sanju 34, Mohammad Rayan 4/42) bt Young Pioneer 116 in 29 overs (N.J. Deepak 30, Shahid Shariff 4/27).
Silky Town 217 in 48.2 overs (M. Somashekara 30, Mudassir Uddin 70, Syed Faiz 37, R. Pratham 5/30) bt Blue Diamond 152 in 30.3 overs (R. Pratham 29, K.C. Avinash 30, N. Macharla 4/29, Syed Asif 3/37).
Sangam CA 283/9 in 50 overs (Mujaid Ahmed 26, Puneeth Pai 125, D. Gagan 39, G. Mukund 5/51) bt South End 211 in 44.5 overs (Gagan Krishna 27, K. Mahesh 42, Nirmith 61, Deepak Sridhar 5/33).
IISC Gymkhana 118 in 45.3 overs (Omprakash Aglecha 3/18) lost to Freelancers 119 for no loss in 24 overs (Dhaval Kantilal 59 n.o., Pavan Kumar 38 n.o.).
Bharath 178 in 44.5 overs (Hemanth 91 n.o., Roopak Sahoo 5/35) bt Sparklers 93 in 30.5 overs (Shrikar Ganiga 3/18, Samarth Hegde 3/19, Manish Narayanan 3/12).
Victory 174 in 43.2 overs (Nitish Arya 66, Janardhan 40, Saif Siddiqui 3/45, Samarth Hegde 3/25) lost to Eleven Brothers 175/7 in 40.3 overs (Syon Satvik 59, S. Manjunath 37, Bhojanapu Rajaram 29 n.o.).
Maharana 348/5 in 50 overs (Hari Rajiv 85, Likith Gowda 141, Gagan Rao 33, H.R. Vijaykumar 63 n.o.) bt Standard 236 in 40.5 overs (Anoop Gandhi 39, C.H. Nayan 35, Bharath Srinivasan 26, M. Vijaykumar 54, Kaivalya Mishra 3/50).

Warriors HC runs riot

Warriors HC whipped Primrose HC 'B' 10-0 in the KSHA-BHA 'C' Division hockey league here.

The results: Zenith HC 2 (Vaishnav 6, R. Shreyas 26) bt Ideal Sports Academy 'B' 1 (Sailandar 35); Warriors SC 10 (Royan Rodrigues 5, 28, Sanu Somaiah 15, 20, 34, Harsha 16, 21, Bopanna 31, Vishwa Kumar 32, Diwan Subbaiah 39) bt Primrose HC 'B' 0.

Sathish to meet Ravi in the final

Sathish Kumar edged out Chirag Sen 12-21, 21-19, 21-18 in the men's singles semifinal of the Infosys Foundation India International Challenge badminton tournament.

The results (semifinals): Men: Sathish Kumar bt Chirag Sen 12-21, 21-19, 21-18; Ravi bt Alap Misha 21-11, 21-16. **Women:** Unnati Hooda bt Tara Shah 14-21, 22-20, 21-13; Isharani Baruah bt Pardeshi Shreyanshi 17-21, 21-6, 21-15.

RIT hoopsters triumph

The Ramaiah Institute of Technology men's team beat REVA University 60-33 to win the State level inter-collegiate basketball championship conducted by Manipal Institute of Technology.

Touch Of Grey primed to come good in the 1xBet Mysore Derby

MYSURU: Touch Of Grey, who is in fine fettle, may score an encore in 1xBet Mysore Derby 2023 (2,000m), the stellar attraction of the concluding day's races to be held here on Sunday (Oct. 29). There will be no false rails.

1 DELHI RACE CLUB TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 1-30 p.m.: 1. Squanto (12) M. Rajesh K 60, 2. Code Of Honour (9) S. Shareef 58.5, 3. Country's Fame (10) A. Merchant 58.5, 4. Unity (5) M. Naveen 58, 5. Fifty Grand (6) Angad 57, 6. Ironic Humour (7) B. Harish 57, 7. Ruby Woo (4) A. Baandal 57, 8. California Gold (3) A.S. Peter 56.5, 9. D Admiral (11) T. Pavan 56, 10. Saro Bird (1) Salman Khan 56, 11. Enrichment (8) Kiran Rai 55 and 12. Raptor (2) G. Vivek 50.5.

1. CODE OF HONOUR, 2. RAPTOR, 3. CALIFORNIA GOLD

2 DELHI RACE CLUB TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-00: 1. Sparkling Night (7) Inayat 62.5, 2. Shooting Venus (6) S. John 62, 3. Vardaan (8) Md. Imran Ashraf 62, 4. Rich Strike (2) L.A. Rozario 61, 5. Country's Major (5) C. Umesh 59.5, 6. D Fighter (11) Koshi K 59.5, 7. Game Boy (-) (-) 59.5, 8. City Of Hustle (10) Faiz 59, 9. Mighty Prince (1) Abhishek Mhatre 59, 10. Mystical Merlin (9) T. Pavan 58.5, 11. Desert Romance (3) M. Rajesh K 56.5 and 12. Swiss Tigress (4) Prabhu K 55.5.

1. COUNTRY'S MAJOR, 2. SHOOTING VENUS, 3. MYSTICAL MERLIN

3 ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB TROPHY (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 2-30: 1. Dallas (8) Koshi K 62.5, 2. Power Of Thea (7) T. Pavan 62, 3. Osiris (12) M. Naveen 61.5, 4. Ultimate Striker (2) Akshay K 60.5, 5. The Omega Man (3) Tousif 60, 6. Copper Sunrise (4) M. Rajesh K 58, 7. Ready Player One (10) S. Brahmmesh 58, 8. Pastiche (5) Darshan 56.5, 9. Wind Power (9) A. Merchant 56.5, 10. Stone House (11) Kiran Rai 55.5, 11. Benignity (1) S. Hussain 53 and 12. Super Sexy (6) Abhishek Mhatre 52.

1. ULTIMATE STRIKER, 2. PASTICHE, 3. THE OMEGA MAN

4 MADRAS RACE CLUB TROPHY (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 3-00: 1. N R I Touch (4) M. Shahid 61, 2. Natural Gold (3) Inayat 60, 3. Flamingo Dancer (9) Koshi K 59.5, 4. Milos (12) J. Paswan 59.5, 5. Facets Of Life (8) Faiz 58.5, 6. Meadow Flower (13) A. Merchant 58, 7. Solid Power (15) S. Hussain 58, 8. Knotty In Blue (2) Jagadeesh 56.5, 9. Immortal Beauty (14) Suraj 55, 10. I Can (1) Angad 54.5, 11. Burst Of Blaze (11) B. Nayak 52.5, 12. Dalhousie (7) Tousif 53.5, 13. Sky Storm (6) Kiran Rai 53.5, 14. Flying Brave (10) S. Shareef 52 and 15. Fair Counsel (5) Vinod Shinde 50.

1. IMMORTAL BEAUTY, 2. I CAN, 3. SOLID POWER

5 BANGALORE TURF CLUB TROPHY (1,200m), rated 80 & above, 3-30: 1. Siege Courageous (1) S. John 60, 2. Ashtar (4) Srinath 58.5, 3. Polished Girl (2) Suraj 55, 4. Dandi Satyagraha (5) R.S. Bhati 54.5 and 5. Wild Spell (3) Koshi K 54.

1. POLISHED GIRL, 2. SIEGE COURAGEOUS

6 IXBET MYSORE DERBY 2023 (2,000m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Eloquent (5) C. Umesh 56, 2. Fearless Joey (6) Vinod Shinde 56, 3. Magnus (2) Srinath 56, 4. River Of Gold (9) S. Saqlain 56, 5. Ruling Dynasty (3) Akshay K 56, 6. Saigon (7) Neeraj 56, 7. Stravinsky (4) L.A. Rozario 56, 8. Touch Of Grey (1) Suraj 56 and 9. Fast Pace (8) G. Vivek 54.5.

1. TOUCH OF GREY, 2. FAST PACE, 3. RULING DYNASTY

7 ROYAL WESTERN INDIA TURF CLUB LTD, TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 4-30: 1. Obsidian (7) Inayat 62.5, 2. The King N I (5) Koshi K 61, 3. Air Display (10) P. Siddaraju 60, 4. Devils Magic (6) Antony 59, 5. Smithsonian (8) Neeraj 59, 6. Musterion (2) Darshan 56, 7. Sir Calculus (9) Abhishek Mhatre 56, 8. Furious Fun (11) T. Pavan 55.5, 9. Rising Sun (1) Kiran Rai 55, 10. Spiritual Force (3) A.K. Aniket 53.5, 11. High Opinion (–) (–) 52 and 12. Defining Power (4) M. Rajesh K 50.

1. DEVILS MAGIC, 2. THE KING N I, 3. RISING SUN

8 HYDERABAD RACE CLUB TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5-00: 1. Ignorance Is Bliss (4) K. Rajesh 62.5, 2. Mountain Lion (12) Noorulla 61, 3. Ibrahimovic (9) J. Paswan 60.5, 4. Serdar (3) Gautam Raj 60, 5. D Roman Reigns (8) Inayat 59, 6. Moonlight Queen (15) Vinod Shinde 59, 7. Perfectimagination (10) Angad 58.5, 8. Mark One (2) Darshan 58, 9. Aralina (13) Antony 56, 10. Gilded Butterfly (5) Hindu S 56, 11. Tom Cruiser (7) A.K. Aniket 54, 12. Vijaya Brave (1) Kiran Rai 54, 13. Magic Circle (11) Koshi K 53.5, 14. Lucky Point (6) Salman Khan 52.5 and 15. What Is This (14) M. Rajesh K 51.5.

1. ARALINA, 2. GILDED BUTTERFLY, 3. TOM CRUISER

Day's best: **IMMORTAL BEAUTY**

Double: **POLISHED GIRL – TOUCH OF GREY**

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Mini Jkt: 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i) 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 3, 4 and 5; (iii): 6, 7 and 8.

O Hansini wins the feature event

MYSURU: Mrs. Namrataa Rakesh's O Hansini (Akshay Kumar up) won the Mysore Race Club Anniversary Cup, the chief event of the races held here on Saturday (Oct 28). The winner is trained by Rakesh.

1. SHARAN LAKSHMANAN MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. I): MYSTIC DIVINE (G. Vivek) 1, Maybury (Madhu Sudhan) 2, Anushtubha (Akshay K) 3 and Ochre (Abhishek Mhatre) 4. 4-1/4, 3/4 and 3/4. 1m, 11.46s. ₹40 (w), 11, 26 and 18 (p), SHP: 103, THP: 44, FP: 566, Q: 375, Trinella: 1,525, Exacta: 12,390. Favourite: D Warrior. Owner: Nippon Bloodstock & Racing Pvt Ltd rep by Mr. Goodera Vasanta. Trainer: C.D. Monnappa.

2. SRI C. SASHACHALAM MEMORIAL TROPHY: SULTAN SWORD (Angad) 1, Pette's Choice (Md. Aliyar) 2, Athulya (M. Prabhakaran) 3 and Natural One (G. Vivek) 4. 2-1/4, Shd and 3/4. 1m, 24.14s. ₹29 (w), 14, 32 and 15 (p), SHP: 147, THP: 66, FP: 297, Q: 290, Trinella: 2,554, Exacta: 9,427. Favourite: Athulya. Owner and trainer: Mr. Poorna Chandra Tejaswi.

3. R.M.PUTTANNA MEMORIAL TROPHY: STAR CONCEPT (Suraj) 1, Crosswater (Antony) 2, One Diamond (J. Chinoy) 3 and Running Bolt (S. Saqlain) 4. 2-3/4, 2-1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 11.41s. ₹18 (w), 13, 12 and 64 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 228, FP: 52, Q: 23, Trinella: 1,937, Exacta: 2,958. Favourite: Star Concept. Owners: M/s. Sunil K Vasant, Anil Saraf, Karan Kashinath, Stride Livestock Pvt Ltd rep by Dr. Ram H Shroff & Mr. Raj H Shroff & Mr. Chetan Shantilal Shah. Trainer: S. Narredu.

4. H.P.VISWANATHAN MEMORIAL TROPHY: IRON CLAD (Srinath) 1, Clever Hans (Shreyas S) 2, Prince Corporate (J. Paswan) 3 and Kingofthejungle (Kiran Rai) 4. Lnk, 3/4 and 4-1/2. 1m, 22.71s. ₹20 (w), 12, 12 and 43 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 89, FP: 45, Q: 21, Trinella: 498, Exacta: 6,444. Favourite: Iron Clad. Owner: Mr. Girish Byrappa. Trainer: Santosh Rao.

5. MYSORE RACE CLUB ANNIVERSARY CUP: O HANSINI (Akshay K) 1, Priceless Gold (Suraj) 2, Segera (Angad) 3 and Vijaya Falcon (Srinath) 4. Shd, 5 and 3. 1m, 22.29s. ₹30 (w), 22 and 10 (p), SHP: 22, THP: 61, FP: 56, Q: 26, Trinella: 210, Exacta: 397. Favourite: Priceless Gold. Owner: Mrs. Namrataa Rakesh. Trainer: Rakesh.

6. BOTTOLONDA TROPHY: MIGHTY ZO (Akshay K) 1, Angeles (Antony) 2, Parker (J. Chinoy) 3 and Armstrong (Srinath) 4. 2-1/4, 1-1/4 and Nose. 1m, 36.19s. ₹21 (w), 14, 12 and 47 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 95, FP: 39, Q: 19, Trinella: 789, Exacta: 12,192. Favourite: Mighty Zo. Owners: Mr. K. Manoj Kumar & Mrs. Gaja Manoj. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

7. SHARAN LAKSHMANAN MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. II): LEOPARD (Angad) 1, Seolfor Bullet (Shezad Khan) 2, D Don King (Jagadeesh) 3 and Kesari Queen (R. Pradeep) 4. 2-1/4, 1-3/4 and 4-3/4. 1m, 11.30s. ₹18 (w), 14, 19 and 14 (p), SHP; 64, THP: 32, FP: 151, Q: 76, Trinella: 541, Exacta: 3,538. Favourite: Leopard. Owners: M/s. Poorna Chandra Tejaswi, Prashanth Raj N & Vijaya Empire Farm Pvt Ltd. Trainer: P.C. Tejeswi.
Jackpot: ₹602 (19 tkts.); Runner-up: 87 (56 tkts.); Mini Jackpot: 1,511 (one tkt.); Treble (i): 63 (21 tkts.); (ii): 314 (nine tkts.).

LIVE TELECAST

Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5, 7.30 onwards.

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30, 7.30 & 9 p.m.

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30 onwards.

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 10 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.

Formula One: Mexico City GP, F1 TV & F1 TV Pro App, 1.30 a.m. (Monday).

Siddhant and Vishnu take the honours

Sports Bureau

Nick Chappell and Bogdan Bobrov, the top two seeds respectively, entered the singles final of the ITF Davangere Open Men's World Tennis Tour at the Davangere Tennis Association Courts.

Siddhant Banthia and Vishnu Vardhan lifted the doubles title with a 6-2, 7-5 victory over Sai Karteek and Manish Sureshkumar.

The results:

Singles (semifinals): Nick Chappell (USA) bt Niki Poonacha 6-3, 6-2; Bogdan Bobrov (Rus) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-4, 7-6.
Doubles (final): Siddhant Banthia & Vishnu Vardhan bt Sai Karteek & Manish Sureshkumar 6-2, 7-5.

Bellingham's double drowns Barcelona

The league leader beats Xavi's side 2-1 after going down through Gundogan's goal in the first half; Tottenham stays on top of the League

Right man at the right place: There was no doubt Bellingham would score once he received the ball in front of goal in stoppage time. REUTERS

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
BARCELONA

Real Madrid battled back to win 2-1 at Barcelona in a nervy LaLiga El Clasico on Saturday thanks to a brace by top scorer Jude Bellingham in the second half.

Barcelona produced a performance full of verve and skill, with midfielder Ilkay Gundogan opening the scoring from close range in the sixth minute by taking advantage of a defensive mistake by the visitor.

However, Barca was punished for failing to convert its dominance into goals as Bellingham made the most of the two chances he had.

First he unleashed an unstoppable strike from range into the upper left corner in the 68th minute and then, in stoppage time, he scored the winner after collecting a Luka Modric pass inside the box. Real Madrid is top of the standings on 28 points, level with Girona. Barca is third on 24.

Chelsea loses again

In the Premier League, Chelsea suffered another damaging home defeat as goals from Ethan Pinnock and Bryan Mbuemo gave Brentford the bragging rights with a 2-0 win in the west London derby.

In another match, Arsenal striker Eddie Nketiah ended his scoring drought in stunning fashion with a hat-trick in his side's 5-0 thrashing of hapless Sheffield United. Tottenham stays on top of the Premier League as Son Heung-min scored again to help the side beat Crystal Palace 2-1 away.

The results: LaLiga: Girona 1 (Herrera 90+ 1) bt Celta Vigo 0; Almeria 1 (Ramazani 73) lost to Las Palmas 2 (Munir 23, Kaba 90+ 4); Barcelona 1 (Gundogan 6) lost to Real Madrid 2 (Bellingham 68, 90+ 2).

Premier League: Chelsea 0 lost to Brentford 2 (Pinnock 58, Mbeumo 90+6); Crystal Palace 1 (Ayew 90+4) lost to Tottenham 2 (Ward 53-og, Son 66); Arsenal 5 (Nketiah 28, 50 & 58, Vieira 88-pen, Tomiyasu 90+6) bt Sheffield United 0; Bournemouth 2 (Semenyo 22, Billing 76) bt Burnley 1 (Taylor 11).

Serie A: Genoa 1 (Gudmundsson 35) bt Salernitana 0; Sassuolo 1 (Boloca 44) drew with Bologna 1 (Zirkzee 3).

Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 8 (Kane 52, 69 & 88, Sane 56 & 64, Musiala 60 & 76, Mueller 71) bt Darmstadt 0; Borussia Moenchengladbach 2 (Plea 4, Foehrenbach 52-og) bt Heidenheim 1 (Dinkci 38); Werder Bremen 2 (Knoche 38-og, Duksch 75) bt Union Berlin 0; Stuttgart 2 (Fuehrich 61, Undav 73) lost to Hoffenheim 3 (Proemel 4, Weghorst 21-pen, Skov 66); Augsburg 3 (Tietz 17, Bornauw 79-og, Engels 81) bt Wolfsburg 2 (Wind 35, Majer 45-pen).

Double delight for India in skeet; Manu seals Olympic quota

ASIAN SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

The duo of Darshna Rathore and Anant Jeet Singh Natuka won the mixed skeet gold in the 15th Asian shooting championship in Changwon, Korea, on Saturday. India also claimed the mixed skeet junior gold through Raiza Dhillon and Harmehar Singh Lally.

Manu Bhaker booked a berth for the Paris Games by winning the quota in the women's 25m sports pistol event. After qualifying on top with 591, Manu did not win a medal but a fifth place was good enough to fetch the quota. It was the 11th Olympic quota for India and the fourth from the ongoing championship.

Manu did win the team silver along with Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan.

Divyansh Singh Panwar and Ramita Jindal were beaten to the gold 16-12 by the Chinese in mixed air rifle event.

The results:
Skeet: Mixed team: 1. India (Darshna Rathore, Anant Jeet Singh Naruka) 40 (139), 2. Kuwait (Eman Al Shamaa, Abdullah Alrashidi) 37 (140), 3. China 37 (137).
Mixed junior: 1. India (Raiza Dhillon, Harmehar Singh Lally) 39 (131), 2. China (Jiang Chaoyu, Zhao Mingyao) 29 (130), 3. Kazakhstan 36 (127) and Korea 29 (122).
25m sports pistol: Women: 1. Liu Rui (Chn) 37 (584), 2. Haniyeh Rostamiyan (Iri) 36 (584), 3. Zhao Nan (Chn) 32 (590); 5. Manu Bhaker 24 (591).; 17. Esha Singh 579; 23. Rhythm Sangwan 576; RPO: Chinki Yadav 575. **Team:** 1. China 1760; 2. India 1746; 3. Chinese Taipei 1739.
Junior: 1. Liang Xiaoya (Chn) 37 (581), 2. Simranpreet Kaur Brar 28 (578), 3. Nam Dajung (Kor) 27 (581); 8. Riya Thatte 7 (577); 11. Meghana Sadula 576; 13. Tejaswani 574; 20. Divanshi 563. **Team:** 1. China 1748; 2. India 1728; 3. Korea 1725.
Air rifle mixed team: 1. China (Han Jiayu, Yu Haoran) 16 (631.0), 2. India (Ramita Jindal, Divyansh Singh Panwar) 12 (631.1), 3. Korea 16 (630.7); 5. India-2 (Tilottama Sen, Arjun Babuta) 630.3.

Champion: Anant Jeet and Darshana with their big prize. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sharp and confident India proves too good for Malaysia

Cock-a-hoop: The Indian players are a happy bunch after blanking Malaysia 5-0. PTI

WOMEN'S ACT

Uthra Ganesan
RANCHI

India put up a much better performance for a convincing 5-0 victory over Malaysia in its second outing at the Jharkand Women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey here on Saturday.

Even though penalty corner conversions continued to be a drag on the team's overall performance, the Indian side was far more cohesive and sharp in the field than on Friday and it showed in the body language as well.

The Indians were confident, the trapping was clean and there was more purpose to the attack, all brought together by the brilliance of player-of-the-match Vandana Katariya who struck two goals of her own and created the space and opportunities for more.

India started on a much stronger footing, earning back-to-back penalty corners in the sixth and seventh minutes, Vandana deflecting in the latter from the left for an early lead.

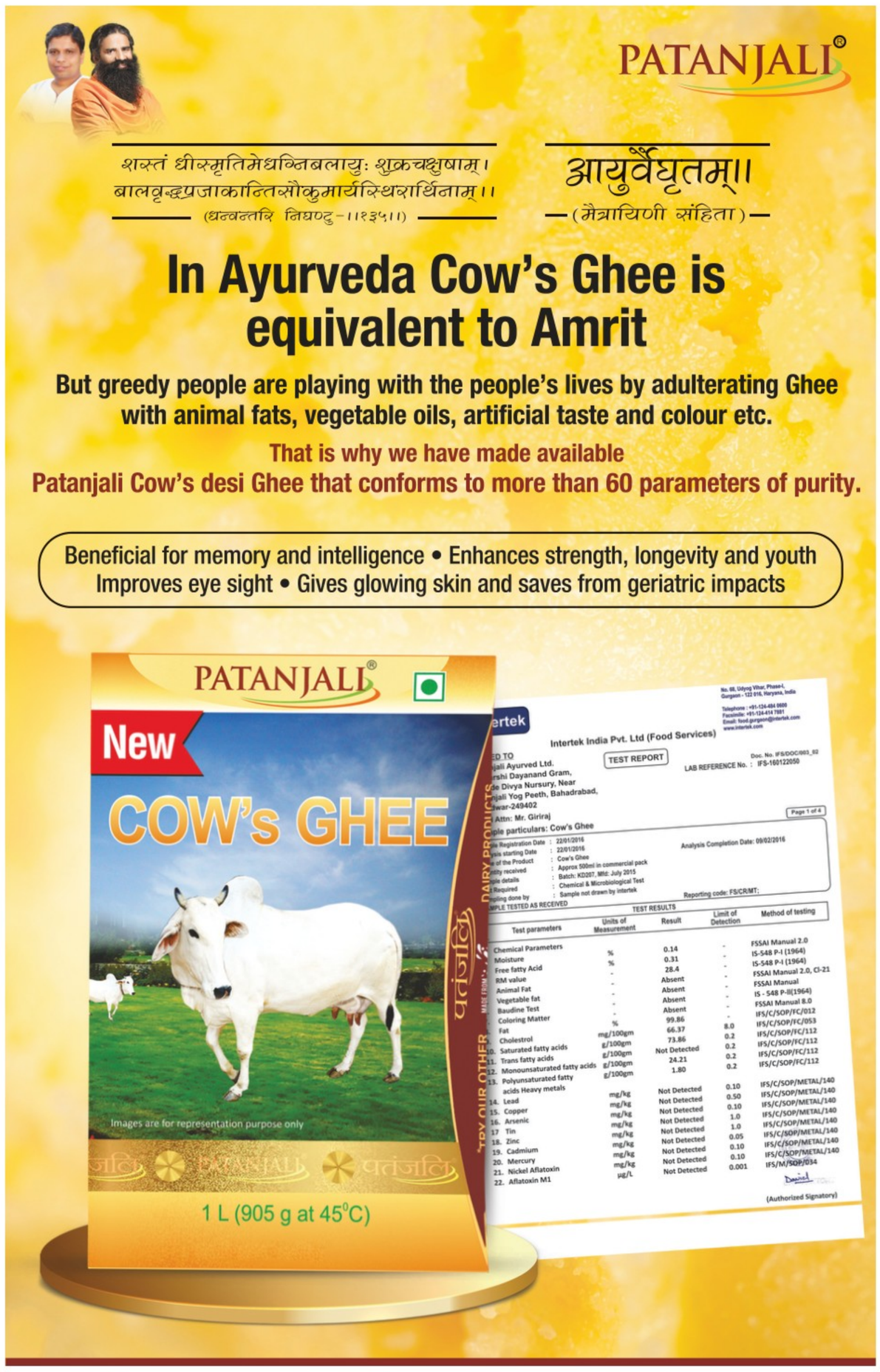
She made it 2-0 in a similar fashion, this time positioned on the right just in front of the far post in the 21st minute.

Two goals within a minute – local favourites Salima Tete and Sangita Kumari combined for a brilliant third and Lalremsiami made it 4-0 – meant India went into half time sitting pretty on top.

Malaysia, which stuck to a defensive game hoping for counter-attacking opportunities, found it impossible to break the Indian shackles or match the host's pace.

The second half was a comparatively sedate affair and despite controlling the game, dictating the pace and earning a series of penalty corners, India was able to add only one more to its tally, something coach Janneke Schopman admitted "was annoying". But with the two lower-ranked sides out of the way, the real test for India in the tournament begins now.

Hat-trick by China's Zhong

In other games, Japan recovered from a listless performance on Friday for a dominating 4-0 win over Korea while Asian Games champion China rode on a hat-trick by Jiaqi Zhong to register a comprehensive 6-0 victory against Thailand.

The results:
Japan 4 (Aimi Kobayashi, Yuri Nagai, Miyu Hasegawa, Mai Toriyama) bt Korea 0.
China 6 (Jiaqi Zhong 3, Ning Ma, Zixia Ou, Wen Dan) bt Thailand 0.
India 5 (Vandana Katariya 2, Sangita Kumari, Lalremsiami, Jyoti) bt Malaysia 0.